Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-91-018 *28 January 1991*

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Diplomat Suggests Caribbean Plan for Long War

FL2501160091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1456 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Toronto, Jan 25, CANA—Dr. Bernard Yankey, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States' High Commissioner to Canada, has suggested that Caribbean countries develop a comprehensive "contingency plan" to deal with problems which could arise from a prolonged war in the Persian Gulf.

Such a plan was "absolutely necessary" to help protect the economies of Caribbean countries, said Dr. Yankey in an interview here. The Ottawa-based diplomat noted that uncertainty about the war creates difficulties for economic planners. He suggested Caribbean planners "sit down and analyse the situation" and set up a contingency plan.

Dr. Yankey, an agricultural economist, said increasing uncertainty about "the duration and intensity" of the war could lead to a collapse in consumer spending in countries such as Canada and the United States. He warned such a development could create "a slump in demand for our exports."

Discusssing the effect of oil prices on the mainly non-oil-producing economies of the Caribbean, Dr. Yankey told CANA that there are no indications at present that prices will increase "as drastically as originally thought." But he said that if the Gulf War between Iraq and a U.S.-led alliance trying to get Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait continues for long and pessimism sets in the price of oil will increase, thus escalating the cost of transportation and production of goods. He noted that this in turn will affect "the competitive edge" of Caribbean exports as well as the tourist industry in the region.

The Dominica-born diplomat said one result of "a prolonged and increasingly costly war" on the public finances of countries such as Canada could be a reduction in official development assistance to the region. "I am not saying that this is going to happen, but this is a likelihood," he added.

Group of Three Expresses Support for Aristide

PA2601223691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2246 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Foreign Secretariat reported today that the Group of Three has expressed to Haitian President-elect Jean Bertrand Aristide their will to cooperate "to the utmost" with his government.

On 19 January a special mission of the Group of the Three (Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela) visited Haiti, and on behalf of their respective presidents, expressed their support of Bertrand Aristide and the Haitian people.

The delegation was made up of Hector Manuel Ezeta, Mexican ambassador for Caribbean Affairs; Rodrigo Pardo, Colombian deputy foreign minister; and Beatriz Rangel, Venezuelan deputy minister of the presidency.

Meanwhile, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat said that Bertrand Aristide expressed his country's immediate need for food, medicine—especially vaccines—and construction equipment as some people are without the proper shelter.

He also stressed the need for international aid in order to build highways and to provide public services like drinking water, and to construct markets and sports facilities.

The Foreign Secretariat said that the Group of Three will submit the Haitian president's requests to the presidents of Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico.

COPPAL Demands Persian Gulf Cease-Fire

PA2701171591 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1727 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Jan (DPA)—The Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPAL) has demanded an immediate cease-fire and comprehensive negotiations concerning Middle East problems following a two day meeting in Mexico City.

In a communique signed by leaders of 12 political parties, COPPAL said that the United Nations "can and should, without further delay, order an immediate cease-fire that will lead to the start of negotiations to attain equitable, fair, and lasting peace."

The communique added that the conflict requires an "overall solution" to include the freeing of Kuwait, the removal of all foreign troops stationed in the Gulf, the recognition of the right of countries to have safe borders, and compliance with all UN resolutions on the Palestine people.

Regarding other topics, COPPAL welcomed "the triumph of the people's forces" led by Father Jean Bertrand Aristide in Haiti , and expressed its approval over Guatemala's "good electoral development."

The COPPAL reiterated its demand for the Panamanian people's right to self-determination "through free elections that must be preceded by the withdrawal of the occupation forces."

The meeting in Mexico was attended, among others, by Anselmo Sule (Chile), Tomas Borge (Nicaragua), Luis Villamil (Uruguay), Marco Tulio Bruni (Venezuela), Nils Castro (Panama), Ruben Cardozo (Argentina), Horacio Sevilla Borja (Ecuador), and Ricardo Fiallos (El Salvador).

Cuba

UN Envoy Says Security Council 'Powerless'

PA2601042091 Havana International Service in Spanish 0020 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Deputy Foreign Minister and representative to the United Nations and the Security Council, by Havana International reporter Julio Dominguez—live or recorded]

[Text] [Dominguez] I understand that Cuba, Yemen and Algeria, have labeled as a violation of the Security Council by-laws, the decision by the president of the Council, given that there was no consensus among the members of the Council to convoke a public meeting to debate the Persian Gulf war.

[Alarcon] Yes. Article 12 of the Security Council by-laws states that the president will convoke a meeting of the Security Council, whenever any member of the Council asks for it.

Yemen, which is a member of the Council, yesterday morning officially asked for an urgent meeting of the Council. Instead of convoking the meeting, we are now engaged in consultations among all the members to try to determine if there is consensus for the Council to meet. This is completely alien to the Security Council by-laws. Besides that, the UN Charter itself recognizes the right of any member of the organization, even if it is not a member of the Council to ask for a meeting. It goes even further. It recognizes this right for any country, even if it is not a member of the United Nations. This means that the spirit, not only the letter, of the UN founders, as stated in the UN Charter and the Security Council by-laws, is to make it easier for any country to ask for a meeting of the Council in order to at least listen to what that state has to say. The Council could then decide what to do about the problem, but it can not refuse to listen to the nation requesting the meeting. In no part of the UN Charter or the Security Council by-laws—where it so clearly states everyone's right to request a meeting—is there any mention of anyone's possibility of preventing the meeting from being held. This is the best proof that this idea never crossed the minds of the founders of the UN. There is something else.

The 15 Security Council members, according to the UN Charter, have an obligation to remain in New York on permanent call so that they can meet at any time with anyone. What is the reason for this provision in the Charter? Obviously, it calls for readiness at any time. Now, there is an attempt here to establish the right of veto with regard to such an elementary matter. That is, if the Council is going to meet or not to consider [words indistinct] this is totally unacceptable. Besides it is a technical violation of the UN Charter [words indistinct].

[Dominguez] Ambassador, I understand that there are bilateral consultations going on and that on 28 January there will be an informal meeting such as the one held on 24 January, in which the United States, the UK and France will probably give a report on the developments of the Persian Gulf War.

[Alarcon] That is right. It was agreed that on 28 January we will hold a meeting like the one we had yesterday. What information the member of the so-called alliance [words indistinct] is making us lose time, because instead of being at the meeting, we were watching the U.S. televisions, which had more more information than [words indistinct]. In yesterday's meeting, Ambassador Pickering distributed a transcript of the news conference given the day before by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Powell. Everyone had an opportunity to see that news conference on the U.S. television. I thanked the ambassador for giving us the text, it is always good to have the text, but I had seen this on television. That is why I said that if that was the information they were going to give us, it would be better for us to meet [words indistinct] with what I have called the Rio Bravo Club. You cannot imagine the number of people that are piled up in the small office next to the Security Council, watching television, the only media. It was through this media that the secretary general, the Security Council members, and the whole world learned that the war had broken out and that the attacks had started.

The Council is facing a ridiculous situation, a pathetic situation, to say the least. It has proven that it is powerless in face of a war that no one can deny is going on. I said earlier that the possibility of a country asking for a meeting exists. A country can ask for a meeting to discuss what it believes is a matter that the Council must broach and the Council may rule that it is not a matter for it to discuss. But in this case I do believe that not even a crazy person can deny that there is a war going on in the Persian Gulf. The issues of war and peace are issues to be handled by the Security Council and not the [words indistinct].

Officials in 'Contact' With Personnel in Iraq

FL2501190091 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Cuban doctors and nurses who are working in Baghdad, Iraq, continue to perform their duties without any difficulties.

This statement, which was made by a Cuban Embassy official in Baghdad, is published in today's GRANMA edition.

The offical said he had met with the members of the Cuban medical brigade and that he had verified that they have had no difficulties in performing their duties.

The GRANMA article states that an embassy official is in permanent contact with the Cuban health workers who are fulfilling their duties.

Commentary Decries U.S. World Involvement

PA2701181091 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jan 91

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] In 1989, on the sixth anniversary of the invasion of the Caribbean island of Grenada, President George Bush said that the United States strongly defends Grenada's democratic process. He promised to make every effort to continue cooperating with any elected government.

Every U.S. President seems to be dissatisfied unless he unleashes a war in a foreign country. Before he was assassinated, John Kennedy sent expatriate mercenaries to spearhead an invasion of Cuba, while preparing his own troops for later involvement. Bush is responsible for the savage conflict currently developing in the Persian Gulf. In 1983 Ronald Reagan felt very proud as his paratroopers landed on Grenadian soil. As the popular saying goes, history repeats itself. However, the world has grown tired of repetitive wars that always originate in the same place and are based on similar pretexts.

Taking advantage of the internal problems that had emerged within Maurice Bishop's government, and shortly after the progressive Grenadian leader's murder, President Ronald Reagan invaded the island, claiming that he had done so to preserve the lives of a group of Americans studying medicine at the Saint George University.

With any hesitation, as if it were part of their training, U.S. troops invaded a country which only five days earlier had lived happily; had a progressive government; had a young, gifted, and honest prime minister; and was eager for development and peace. To a lesser or greater extent, meddling and occupations go hand in hand with the U.S. Government which, advised by its military cadres, does not hesitate to bring suffering to a nation and cares little about the moral and economic damage that can be inflicted in any area where its troops land.

Is any country in the world destined to serve as a war experiment whenever the U.S. Administration so desires? An affirmative answer may be fatalistic, but there is not a local conflict anywhere on the planet in which the United States is not directly or indirectly involved. Grenada has never been the same following the U.S. occupation. With a stagnating economy and society, Grenada is another example of the United States' armed meddling that has left an aftermath of death, grief, and regression.

U.S. Said To Have Mastered Propoganda Ploys

PA2701044091 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Commentary by Pedro Martinez Pirez and Arnaldo Hernandez Romeu: "Between Colleagues"]

[Text] [Hernandez Romeu] Pirez, today I want to dedicate some of our time to praise the United States for something for which it deserves praise. It has mastered the art of propaganda. I think we all agree that the the United States is a pioneer in this field. Here is one example of what I am saying: The United States, where the President is elected by less than 25 percent of the electorate, is seen as the embodiment of democracy in the world. That is, when people speak of democracy, they speak of the United States. That country has been able to make the people of the world view the United States as a model democracy, in spite of the fact that its claim of representing the will of its people is poorly backed.

The United States has also set records on interventions throughout the world. It has intervened in Nicaragua, where it killed Sandino; it has intervened in the Dominican Republic and in Cuba. It also participated in the overthrow and murder of Salvador Allende in Chile. This is something the United States itself has admitted. It has intervened in Grenada and Panama. Right now it is in Kuwait, and while it is true that Husayn had no right to invade Kuwait, I also question the United States' right to be intervening in a fraticidal war in such a remote place.

The people of the world, however, are apparently on the side of the United States. Husayn is being seen as a person of [words indistinct] and isolated. I think propaganda has played a big role in this.

We could also talk about the human rights issue. The United States has condoned and approved of human rights violations in Latin America and the world. Partners of the United States, such as Israel, are notorious violators of human rights. These partners are able, however, to present themselves as countries that respect human rights. Evidence of this is the role the United States assigned to a former Cuban policeman, Armando Valladares. The United States made him its highest representative at the UN organization in charge of human rights affairs.

By the way, Valladares recently resigned from his post. I think you could comment on the reasons for his resignation. What do you think about that?

[Martinez Pirez] Arnaldo, you have touched on many issues. You have concluded by mentioning former policeman Armando Valladares, who is now a former U.S. ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission, headquartered in Geneva.

I do not think that all the people of the world back the United States in this war. I think that important U.S. sectors have been protesting and criticizing and denouncing this war and important media sectors in Western Europe have been pointing to the true intentions and interests behind an undertaking apparently in favor of the independence and sovereignty of a small country—Kuwait. Western Europe media sectors have been pointing to oil.

Some have said more. Some have said that, strategically speaking, the U.S. action is aimed at securing for the United States an hegemonic position over Europe and Japan. This means that this is a complex matter. Sometimes things are said and sometimes they are not.

I think there are intelligent and able statesmen who are allies of the United States who know perfectly well that the U.S. foreign policy is dual-edged, that the United States has double standards. They know that behind it all, there are hegemonic and economic interests. That is, I do not think that the people of the world can be fooled that easily. In the Arab countries, the reaction to the U.S. undertaking is already important. There is blackmail involved in all this. There is the case of Israel. Israel is taking advantage of the situation to blackmail the North Americans, who are their godfathers, the ones who have created the military monster of the Middle East.

It is true, as you have said, that all this is being done in the name of democracy, liberaty, and human rights. President Bush is already saying that it is necessary to to put Saddam Husayn on trial, to install some court similar to that of Nuremberg, to try war crime cases.

Unfortunately, the world at this moment is virtually without polarity, with the United States being able to make its interests prevail. The United States has been able to secure the willing or unwilling obedience of many important capitalist countries.

The case of Valladares is insignificant, we could say. However, it serves, Arnaldo, to demonstrate, first of all, that the United States is assuming a new position. It has decided to do without the services of this gentleman Armando Valladares Perez, who was really a product of U.S. propaganda.

[Hernandez Romeu] Is the United States rectifying its policies?

[Martinez Pirez] I do not think so. What I believe is that right now the United States has a top priority: the Persian Gulf war. I am sure that Iraq and Saddam Husayn will be key issues at the summit meeting to take place in Geneva in February or March, and the United States will try to get Husayn condemned and tagged as a criminal and as a man who has weapons that represent a threat to the world. Much has been said about chemical weapons. I think that Iraq and Saddam Husayn will be key issues.

The United States has excluded Armando Valladares Perez now at this time, and it did not do so before, because during the next period of sessions [not further identified], Cuba will not represent for the United States what it represented in 1990, 1989, 1988, and 1987. Cuba could still be a U.S. foreign policy objective and be the victim of slander and propaganda, but the Middle East situation is something very serious for the United States from the political and military points of view.

I was in Geneva in 1988 and 1989 and Armando Valladares Perez was viewed with spite by the rest of the U.S. delegation. He was the head ambassador, despite the fact that it was U.S. State Department officials who did the diplomatic, political, and psychological work.

[Hernandez Romeu] I understand that Vernon Walters was there also.

[Martinez Pirez] Yes, Vernon Walters was some sort of big star. At one point he was the U.S. ambassador at the United Nations. Later he was the U.S. ambassador to Bonn. He was somewhat the progenitor of the human rights campaign against Cuba. Vernon Walters was the man who Reagan, first, and then Bush, sent to Geneva to deliver the main speech, because Armando Valladares Perez, that poor devil, could hardly represent the United States. This proved that he was a tool of U.S. foreign policy. It was even said that the United States made a mistake by appointing him ambassador because he had disgusted career State Department officials who had spent years there and who retired without making it to the post of ambassador, and here was Armando Valladares Perez, made ambassador by the grace of the White House' anti-Cuban policy, which at that time was being directed by Reagan. Bush ratified him in that post. When Bush was sworn in, it was said that Valladares was being given secondary importance because he had been utilized already as some sort of clown, we could say, during the U.S. melodrama in Geneva which was aimed at filling that forum with lies. The ambassadors who were there knew what kind of role Valladares was playing.

This means that I do not think we have to congratulate the United States for this decision. We would have to congratulate the U.S. State Department officials who find themselves free of Valladares. Valladares had to be helped. He cannot speak French, he is not a profesionally capable man, and he is no diplomat. He used to hamper the prestige of none else than the most important capitalist power in the world.

There is no doubt that there are problems among the Cuban immigrants and that Valladares, as well as Jorge Mas Canosa, who is Valladares' ally among the extreme right of the Cuba immigrants, are facing a growing opposition. The extremist anti-Cuban position is going through a crisis in the United States, especially in Miami.

[Hernandez Romeu] I share your opinion that the appointment of Valladares was a big error of U.S. foreign policy. We have no more time, I am afraid. I propose that we see each other next week to discuss another current issue.

[Martinez Pirez] Of course, Arnaldo.

Miret, Rosales del Toro Address Parts Forum

FL2501215191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Announcer Gretchen Galindo] The Defense Commission was entrusted with 530 tasks during the Fifth National Spare Parts Forum held in December 1990. A high percentage of these tasks has already been completed.

[Unidentified reporter] The FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and Minint [Ministry of Interior] activities in manufacturing and recovering spare parts undoubtedly play a preponderant role in the development of combat technology.

Several enterprises and military schools made an assessment of the Fifth National Spare Parts Forum. They also discussed subjects pertaining to the Sixth National Spare Parts Forum scheduled for December 1991.

During the Fifth National Spare Parts Forum, the majority of solutions submitted by the FAR centered on armaments and technology. The works mainly concentrated on manufacturing. The need to put more enthusiasm in recovering technology and achieve the participation of military schools in this movement was noted.

[General Ulises Rosales del Toro] "The problems we must face during this special period compel us to think, to implement different initiatives, and to seek the best of solutions. This must be done with the boldness, the dynamism, the firmness, the maturity achieved in 30 years of revolution, and the optimism that has characterized the FAR and the Minint which have decissively worked for the consolidation and development of Cuban socialism."

[Reporter] In his report, Eugenio Mainegra, chief of the Central Committee Basic Industry Department, said that the Sixth Forum will not only address the urgency of manufacturing spare parts but also of high technology tools, means, and equipment.

He added that the defense sector must continue to closely cooperate with national factories and enterprises that are involved in the manufacturing and research sectors, particularly those involved in high technology, such as: laser, optical, magnetism, and especial welding.

[Politburo Member Pedro Miret] "Your work must be more and more qualified, and more extensive.

"We are convinced that the measures encompassed within the special period which have been adopted nationwide, have also been decisively implemented by the Minint and the FAR. We are not worried. We are not saying anything new. We merely want to urge you to keep working as you have been.

"I would like to add that Comrade Fidel says that not a single minute can be wasted. That is all. [applause]"

Raul Castro Heads Western Army Conference

FL2601194291 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, and FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] minister, is presiding over the eighth party conference of the Western Army.

Some of the highlights of this conference are the party's activities aimed at strengthening military discipline, and at improving training and availability for the defense.

The report that has been submitted states that the army has achieved better results in comparison with those of previous years. However, it notes the need to further perfect the work of political organizations in order to achieve the main objectives of the FAR.

Militants have discussed the importance of direct contact with the individual and the need to seek more mechanisms to promote moral incentives.

The debates have also centered on the efforts made by innovators and efficiency experts to save resources and replace imported products.

Other subjects discussed at this meeting are the influence of the party and the UJC [Young Communists Union] on maintenance techniques, and on the measures adopted by the different units to cope with the especial period in times of peace.

Also attending this eighth conference are Western region provincial committees secretaries.

Labor Leader Criticizes System, Consequences

PA2701185291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2207 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Havana, 26 Jan (NOTIMEX)—"Schematism and dogmatism" are two evils that have affected the Cuban labor movement to the point that they have caused "hypertrophy" in the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC).

CTC Secretary General Pedro Ross was interviewed by the weekly TRABAJADORES. He said that, since "everything came from the top" this caused "hypertrophy in the CTC."

Ross said that if the state administration does not represent the workers' interests, the labor union does not have to support it.

The labor leader insisted that since the 16th CTC congress—celebrated one year ago—the only Cuban labor organization has worked to strengthen the rank and file and the mid-level positions.

The leading Cuban labor group, which has more than 3.5 million members, must work as a counterpoint to the administration. He admitted that labor unions sometimes endorse "administrative errors, squandering of

resources, favoritism, and corruption." The labor leader said that new payment systems among the Cuban workers are being studied because there have already been cases in which inefficient workers are being punished under the current system. He added that the CTC agrees that payments should be stipulated by each sector from now on, and that those who are more productive should earn more.

Nevertheless, Ross emphasized that the modification of the payment system will have to wait until after the special period prevailing in the country.

Delegation Departs for Meeting in South Africa

FL2601203091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the tenth joint committee meeting in charge of studying the fulfillment of peace agreements in the southern region of Africa departed Havana today.

The Cuban delegation is headed by Division General Jesus Bermudez Cutino. It is made up of Cuban Vice Minister Alcibiades Hidalgo, Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, member of the Central Committee general department of foreign relations, and other members of the joint committee.

The tenth joint committee meeting will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 29 to 30 January. It will be attended by delegations from South Africa, Angola, Namibia—who are full members—and by the USSR and the United States, in their capacity as observers.

In addition to studying the fulfillment of the agreements signed in New York in December 1988, the agenda will include an exchange of views on the current situation in the southwestern region of Africa.

Bilateral Agreement Signed With Algeria

FL2601180591 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The governments of Cuba and of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria have signed an agreement that regulates bilateral proceedings and negotiations.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and (Abdelahamit Lafeche), the Algerian ambassador to Cuba, signed the agreement on behalf of their two governments.

Foreign Minister Malmierca said that this agreement is representative of the highly positive nature of Cuban-Algerian relations.

Antigua and Barbuda

Finance Minister Reiterates Resignation Threat

FL2501222091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2059 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 Jan (CANA)—Antigua and Barbuda's Finance Minister John St Luce has said he will shortly resign if his earlier ultimatum for a cabinet reshuffle and public service restucturing does not bring action.

"It cannot be business as usual. If this is to be the case, then as I stated quite clearly four months ago I would have to consider my future in the government," St Luce said in a telephone interview from New York with the Barbados-based Canaradio.

St Luce, who said he will be returning to Antigua in the next few days, said he has drafted and circulated his restructuring proposals, including a plan to reduce ministries from 11 to nine.

"If the changes are not made, I will have no option but to give up my position as a minister of government and be a backbencher (in Parliament)," St Luce said. He added that lack of change in the ruling Antigua Labour Party could also prompt him to depart the party entirely.

St Luce said his decision was not easy to make but hoped his action would help bring about some changes which "are needed in this very difficult world and the very difficult economic ciurcumstances which we find ourselves in. It is my considered opinion that such a restructuring will ensure that we have better management of our scare resources, better coordination between the numerous departments and agencies of government and ultimately improved, effective and efficient services for all the people," he said.

"It is with grave disappointment that it appears that in 1991, it is business as usual. If this is the case, then I will have no other option but to carry out my plan which I announced ... months ago."

Barbados

Prime Minister Sandiford Appoints New Cabinet

PA2701180291 Paris AFP in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, 27 Jan (AFP)—Barbadian Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford last evening appointed a new 13-member cabinet after his party, the centrist Democratic Labour Party (DLP), was reelected this week in the island's general elections, it has been officially reported.

In addition to remaining prime minister, Sandiford will be finance and economic affairs minister.

Former Housing Minister Harold Blackman was appointed vice minister of finance, replacing Senator Carl Clarke, who will now be industry and commerce minister.

The youngest member of parliament, 29-year-old David Thompson, has been appointed minister of community development and culture.

Sandiford announced the creation of a new Justice and Public Security Ministry, which will headed by former Employment and Community Development Minister Keith Simmons. The renewal of the struggle against the lack of security was one of Sandiford's main promises during his electoral campaign.

Former Industry and Commerce Minister Evelyn Greaves was appointed housing minister.

Senator Harcourt Lewis, former deputy agriculture minister, has been appointed agriculture minister. He replaces Warwick Franklin, who will now be consumer affairs and ecology minister.

The following ministers have been affirmed in their posts:

- Branford Taitt: health.
- Maurice King: foreign affairs and attorney general.
- Wesley Hall: tourism and sports.
- Cyril Walker: education.
- Philip Greaves: deputy prime minister, public works, transport and telecommunications.

Sandiford reported that parliament will start its sessions on 6 February with Governor General Nita Barrow's traditional speech announcing the new government's priorities.

The center-right Barbados Labour Party (BLP), which won 10 of the 28 parliamentary seats in the elections, announced that its main leader, Henry Forde, will become the opposition leader.

The DLP won the other 18 parliamentary seats in Tuesday's [22 January] elections, while the National Democratic Party (NDP), a splinter group, achieved no representation.

Forde on Alleged 'Draconian' Economic Measures

FL2501150091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1407 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Colin King report]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 24 Jan, [date as received] (CANA)—Barbados Labour Party (BLP) leader Henry Forde has warned that "draconian" economic measures will soon follow Tuesday's [22 January] re-election of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) to the government.

"I say that Barbados will find itself having to face very tough and rough decisions," he said.

"...The public is going to find a very big letdown.... Because (it will) have to bear certain draconian measures that Sandiford will no doubt have to impose," Forde told a news conference Thursday.

Forde said the elections, which gave Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford's DLP an 18-10 parliamentary seat victory over the BLP, indicate the country is in "deep political crisis."

"The cynicism that has fastened itself on the minds of so many Barbadians and the apathy engendered by the dissension, fragmentation, and rumblings within the Democratic Labour Party, and also the rejection of high standards by those who hold public office, all combined to produce a low (62 per cent) voter turn-out."

Forde accused the government of hiding details about the state of the economy and claimed that if the true position had been revealed to the public the result of the election may have been different.

"Mark my words that those tough decisions have to be taken and you will say.... that they have not been taken in time," he said.

"My role is to point out to you what the government does incorrectly.... within the governmental structure, we will continue to say where the government is wrong and give them the alternative suggestion when the time is appropriate."

Forde declined to specify what measures he felt the Sandiford government would take or what policies he felt should be applied. He insisted however that the economy would have been in better shape had his party been in the government.

"We're not going to spell out the specific measures," Forde stressed, "but I say the measures that they will take will have to be draconian measures. As we said in the campaign.... The government's fiscal position is bad." He described the productive sectors as "not moving."

"We are still short of foreign exchange.... All these questions have to be addressed," he added. Forde said his party was not in favour of devaluation of the Barbados dollar.

"...But the government must deal with that problem," he told reporters. "The country has elected them to deal with their problems and has elected us to be the guardians against any malpractices on the part of the government and that is exactly the role that I will perform at this stage, very vigorously too."

Dominica

Nation's Progress, Economic Situation Surveyed

FL2501172091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1645 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Peter Richards report]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 25 Jan (CANA)—There's an old joke that Christopher Columbus would immediately recognise Dominica if, miraculously, he were to drop anchor off the rugged Caribbean island now. But as Spain and the Americas prepare to mark—next year—the 500th year of his arrival in the New World, that joke is certainly becoming stale.

True there are still Carib Indian descendants and the country retains much of its lush naturalness but the 305 square mile island of 75,000 shows many of the signs of modernity—and wounds associated with that progress. A building boom in the last years of the 1980's, a thriving banana industry, and a steadily improving tourism sector herald the progress of the land of 365 rivers.

Disgruntlement among the 2,500 Caribs who have survived—there were approximately 10,000 in the 15th century—trades union rivalry, the mushrooming use and trade in illicit drugs, and an overdependence of the economy on bananas are among the wounds.

Analysts say the island has become politically bored and resigned at a time of need for visionary leadership, capable of motivating people to deal with the challenges brought on by internatational circumstances. They point to the one seat majority the government has over a split opposition as a cause for concern.

Unemployment has been calculated at 11 per cent of the 25,000 workforce. Economist Joey Peltier highlights that as a reason for drug abuse. "Young people have turned to drugs because they feel frustrated about not getting the type of work they need. They regard the drug barons as their role models," said Peltier.

"The drug problem exists and it may well be in our interest to accept that and do something about it," said Milton Lawrence, vice-president of the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC). Authorities say most of the cocaine, marijuana, and crack make their way into the island through the unguarded areas along the rugged coastline including Grandbay, south of the capital, and Portsmouth, on the island's north coast.

The unemployment is symptomatic of a sluggish economy which declined nearly two per cent in 1989 after averaging seven per cent over the previous three years under an International Monetary Fund structural adjustment programme.

Government economic adviser Alick Lazare had projected four per cent growth in Gross Domestic Product [GDP]—total goods and services produced—in 1990. However, he doesn't feel that represents significant growth on the East Caribbean 133.49 million dollars (in constant 1974 prices) which was recorded in 1989. (GDP in current prices was EC 339.9 million dollars, with one EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents).

"In terms of our level of development and low base, four per cent is not major growth," he told CANA. "A single large investment can add more than a point to GDP."

Under IMF guidance for most of the 1980's, the Dominica Government maintained tight fiscal policies and measures aimed at stimulating savings, investment, and external competitiveness. Corporate and personal income taxes were lowered, loss-making government enterprises scrapped, public sector borrowing slashed, and investment incentives introduced.

"Over 10 years you had a steady growth in domestic savings that should have led to private sector growth and investment but you haven't had that response," said Lazare.

A government minister argues that part of the problem is the relative inexperience of the private sector whose history has been mostly in the distributive trade.

The country which depends on bananas for the bulk of its agricultural exports and about a third of current GDP is living under the fear of the prospects of stiff competition when the European Community becomes a single free market in 1992. Edward Lambert, general manager of Dominca Agro-Indstries, feels a rehabilitation of the flagging grapefruit industry could earn the country 18 million dollars a year compared to the present two million. But farmers are fearful about diversification into other crops since they have developed expertise, markets, and guaranteed prices for bananas.

The chamber believes that the government needs to "develop innovative and attractive incentives particularly for Dominicans who wish to get involved in agro-industry and fresh fruit marketing.

There have been criticisms of the performance of the private sector which many regard as being only interested in importing goods to be sold at inflationary prices.

"Most of them are in the buying and selling business, which is a very easy exercise, and they hardly invest," Lambert Lewis, general manager of the state-owned National Commercial Bank, said.

At the same time, trade unionists and cultural observers believe there is a definite bias towards things foreign, hence the alienation of local investors and people like the Caribs from the mainstream. The unions criticise enclave industries which they say have no commitment to the country. They say that most of the enclave industries attracted to Dominica have departed leaving empty shells. These were taken over by Dominicans, who inititally were not offered the various incentives held out to the foreigners.

"We have had a very unpleasant history of them in Dominica; they call them "runaway industry." They come here, pay low wages and expect to make super profits," a union official said.

"I am not quite sure whether government is meeting its objective, through its policies," Alvin Thomas, general secretary of the Civil Service Association (CSA), said.

Last year a Korean textile company folded operations here putting an estimated 250 people out of work. "Some people are not even able to meet their commitments—they are living on credit," a union official complained.

The Caribs, many of whom have moved off the 3,700 acre Salybia reserve north east of the capital, feel their contribution is ignored. "When government sets out its programme, we believe it needs to place emphasis on its indigenous people, like us, we have a different culture," Carib Chief Irvince Auguste said.

Local historian Lennox Honychurch agrees. "I have to be constantly reminding people about the influence the Caribs had upon us," he said.

"We believe we can make a very good contribution to tourism.... The government must show a little bit more emphasis in the development of the tourism potential of the Carib people," Auguste said.

The Caribs are hoping that their expertise in handicraft could be better exploited for their economic future and development of their reserve. The tourist board says it has submitted a project to funding agencies for upgrading the Carib reserve, which would take into account the [words indistinct] by the Carib chief.

Honychurch warns that "the problems we are going to face in the 90's can only be dealt with by a radical decision of our economic planners and by a greater emphasis on self-reliance. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) which have pumped more than 20 million dollars into the economy over the past ten years say they are playing their part.

"In the decade of the 90's we have to apply more of our talent and resources just to survive. We have to be able to create more jobs, more self-employment, a greater degree of self-reliance among our target groups," an official of the Small Project Assistance Team (SPAT) asserted.

Haiti

Army Command Communique Denies Coup Rumors

Prisoners' Release Also Denied

PA2701132391 Paris AFP in Spanish 1138 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 27 Jan (AFP)— The Haitian Army command today denied insistent coup d'etat rumors that had caused the public sector of Port-au-Prince to mobilize. Groups of youths marched through the streets and began to build barricades as soon as the rumor began to spread.

The rumor attributed the coup d'etat initiative to former Port-au-Prince Mayor Franck Romain, who is exiled in the Dominican Republic; and former General Williams Regala, who was second in command during General Henri Namphy's deposed military regime.

The military command's communique also denied reports that Duvalierist political prisoners had been released. The communique ended by urging the population to remain calm and resume their normal activities.

Soldiers Kill Two, Wound Eight

PA2701162691 Paris AFP in Spanish 1524 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 27 Jan (AFP)—Various sources in Port-au-Prince have issued coinciding reports to the effect that at least two people were shot to death and another eight were wounded by soldiers today in Carrefour, south of the Haitian capital.

The casualties occurred when soldiers opened fire on demonstrators who had erected barricades in the area following false rumors of a neo-Duvalierist coup d'etat.

The Haitian Army command today denied persistent rumors of a coup d'etat that had mobilized the residents of poor neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince.

The report that was denied attributed the coup to former Port-au-Prince mayor Franck Romain, who is in exile in the Dominican Republic; and to former general Williams Regala, who was the number-two man in the deposed military regime led by General Namphy.

As the rumor spread, groups of youths took to the streets and erected barricades.

Evans Paul, mayor-elect of the capital, who is also the spokesman for the political coalition that supports President-elect Jean Bertrand Aristide, also denied the rumors of a coup and urged the people to be calm.

Paul warned the people against "destabilizing" maneuvers as the president-elect prepares to travel to Paris this afternoon to meet on 28 January with French President Francois Mitterrand and other ranking French officials.

Aristide Travels to France Despite New Violence

PA2701222791 Paris AFP in Spanish 2105 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 27 Jan (AFP)—Haitian President-elect Jean Bertrand Aristide left today for Paris where he will make a 48-hour official visit at the invitation of the French Government.

Father Aristide, who is accompanied by a five-member retinue and French Ambassador to Haiti Jean-Raphael Dufour, will meet with President Francois Mitterrand on 29 January.

The Haitian president-elect, who will take office on 7 February, will also meet with Prime Minister Michel Rocard and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

On Sunday morning, violence flared up in poor neighborhoods because of unfounded rumors about a new neo-Duvalierist coup d'etat attempt on the night of 26 January. According to the latest reports by various sources, 10 people were killed and 14 were wounded in this capital.

To Meet Mitterrand 29 Jan

LD2701223391 Paris Domestic Service in French 2130 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Last night's violence in Haiti resulted in 10 dead and 14 injured in Port-au-Prince: In some districts a popular uprising, set off by unfounded rumors of a new coup attempt by friends of the former dictator Duvalier, was witnessed. Calm seems to have returned during the day, and the elected president of Haiti, Father Aristide, left Port-au-Prince for a 48-hour official visit to France. Father Aristide will be received by Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee on 29 January.

Release of Alleged Lafontant Supporter Protested

FL2601154091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Former Cap-Haitien prefect, Auguste Robinson, also known as Gusto, was released in the investigation chambers of the Civil Court of Fort-Liberte on Wednesday 23 January. A press release from the Popular Movement of Young Nationalists of Fort-Liberte [MPJNF] and the Avalanche Committee of Notre-Dame City [KLSN] in Fort-Liberte protests Robinson's release.

The statement from these two groups reads as follows: Today [23 January], we in MPJNF and KLSN are raising our voices again to inform the sovereign people of occurrences at the Civil Court in Fort-Liberte. After the great victory over the Macoutes that the people won on 7 January throughout the country, especially in the Northeast when they managed to catch the criminals, Gusto and Bob Lecorps, patriotic soldiers and the valiant people united to arrest these men.

But as the saying goes, there is no difference between people with the same convictions [kabrit tomazo se menm plim, menm plimay]. After these Macoutes were arrested, maneuvers were conducted between the Army and the justice officials to free these scoundrels. The plan did not immediately succeed. Today, however, Justice Gedeon Jean-Pierre, known as Timo, a follower of Duvalier, a domestic to Lafontant, a henchman to Alceste Etienne, a former senatorial candidate under the banner of the Union for National Reconciliation [URN], has managed to release Gusto Robinson, a common criminal, an accomplice in the aborted coup d'etat of 7 January. Under such circumstances, we question our standing. [passage omitted]

We are therefore asking for the dismissal and trial of the immoral Justice Timo, and the immediate arrest of Gusto, who masterminded Roger Lafontant's attempted coup d'etat. We ask that Timo leave Fort-Liberte. We also request that Damas Etienne, an evildoer and terrorist [dechouqueur] from Ouanaminthe, leave Fort-Liberte immediately. Do not forget that alone we are weak; together we are strong; tightly united we are an avalanche.

Lafontant Accomplices Cross-Examined in Court

FL2601173091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] On 23 January, three men appeared in the Civil Court in Port-au-Prince. Former military man, Tales Dossou, was accused of stealing from the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] office on the day of the attempted coup attempt by Roger Lafontant. Our correspondent filed this report.

Three citizens appeared in court on Wednesday [23 January] for a cross-examination which judicial authorities set up more than a week ago. One of the citizens was Mirabeau Petit-Homme, Roger Lafontant's former chauffeur, who was publicly denounced as a criminal for burning the Salomon public market just days before the 1987 elections, an incident which ended in bloodshed. Jean-Eric Syla, Petit-Homme's accomplice, shared a cell with him in the Civil Court of Port-au-Prince. Both were handcuffed.

The third citizen that the government commissioner heard today was Warrant Officer Tales Dossou who was accused as one of the military men who participated in the theft of the CEP material at the time of the foiled coup d'etat, by the president of the CEP and by government commissioner, lawyer Bayard Vincent. It is the second time in two days that Warrant Officer Dossou appeared in Court. On Tuesday, Dossou appeared with Yvon Jules who was accused of throwing the grenade bomb at the crowd in Petionville on 5 December after an Aristide rally.

It was learned from a reliable source that from the time these accused were imprisoned, their relatives have not been permitted to see them, and they have never appeared in court.

Aristide, Local Government Appoint Commissions

FL2501194591 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] President-Elect Jean-Bertrand Aristide sent a letter to the office of Paul Christian Latortue, minister of foreign affairs. The letter advises: Mr. Minister, the secretariat of the president-elect has compiled a list of

people to be on the commission in charge of the transfer of power. They are: lawyer Monique Brisson; agronomist Francois Sevrin; Mrs. Michele Pierre-Louis; and State Council members, lawyer Ernst Malebranche; lawyer Carl Auguste; Mrs. Suzie Castor; Dr. Louis E. Roy; engineer Lesly Voltaire; Dr. Michel Lominy; and Dr. Gerard Bleau.

The provisional president appointed the government commission comprising: Paul Christian Latortue, minister of foreign affairs; Onil Millet, minister of finance; and Jean-Pierre Foucault, minister of public works. The secretariat advised that two meetings were already held between the two commissions on Friday, 18 January in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The secretariat acknowledged with satisfaction the work accomplished by the appointed commissions, in cooperation with different government institutions in the country, to conduct the transfer of power under the best possible conditions.

The secretariat thanks the minister, expresses the wish that the two commissions work well together, and sends its patriotic regards.

The letter is signed by Renaud Bernardin, for the secretariat of the president-elect.

Latest Vote Results Place Gilles in 2d Place

FL2601142591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] News from Plateau Central [Center Department] was a relief for the National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra] and the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP] yesterday.

Latest results of the 20 January elections put Serge Gilles, ANDP senatorial candidate for the Center Department, in second place, according to a source close to Panpra. Gilles will be at least the third senator representing the Center Department in Parliament.

It is to be noted that the first results of these elections indicated that Gilles had not been elected in the Plateau Central.

100,000 Marchers Demonstrate for Peace in Gulf

PA2601153091 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] More than 100,000 people of all ages, social levels, and political trends marched in Mexico City this afternoon to protest against the war in the Persian Gulf. The march started at 1730 at the Monument to the Revolution and ended two hours later at Zocalo Square.

Various associations, students, housewives, artists, representatives of political parties, labor unions, and children marched through Juarez and Maderos Avenues shouting slogans against the escalation of violence in the Middle East.

Among the participants, just to mention a few, there were Senator Luis Donaldo Colosio, national leader of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI); Indalecio Sayago, leader of the PPS [Popular Socialist Party]; Miguel Aleman, ambassador for special affairs; Silvia Hernandez, secretary general of UNE [expansion unknown]; Rafael Aguilar Talamantes, leader of the Cardenist Front: Julio Aleman, secretary general of the ANDA [National Actors Association]; and representatives of the PAN [National Action Party] and the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party].

The Mexican flag at the head of the huge crowd was carried by athletes Aurora Briton and Ernesto Canto. The marchers carried placards and banners with pacifist slogans. When they arrived at Zocalo Square one hour later, rock and folk bands enlivened the demonstration. There was great activity at Zocalo. The only speaker, who spoke on behalf of the Mexican people, was actor Augusto Benedicto. He read a message from the Mexican people to the world condemning war and violence.

This well-organized, peaceful march is perhaps the citizens' first formal reply to events in the Persian Gulf. It is hard to say how many people were there, but the estimate is approximately 100,000. The march ended about an hour ago because of the rain.

Attacks on Nonbelligerent States Criticized

PA2601194991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0549 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Mexico has condemned the aggression against nonbelligerent countries such as Israel in the Persian Gulf war since Mexico believes that these actions increase the risk of extending the war to other nations.

The Mexican Government "deplores and condemns the launching of missiles against the territory of countries that have maintained a nonbelligerent position and have made efforts to try to remain neutral in this conflict, such as Israel."

The Mexican Government joins the international community in its efforts to find a prompt solution to the war in the Middle East and to allow the norms of international law to prevail, said the Foreign Relations Secretariat in a communique issued tonight.

The communique stated that "Mexico will continue to promote, before the community of nations, respect for international law as the only affective means to guarantee peace and stability in that region."

The communique added that the Government of the Republic continues to work to protect Mexican citizens in the area where the armed conflict is taking place and has repatriated another group of fellow Mexicans from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to Mexico.

We are united over our concern for the loss of human lives and civilian property, as well as the ecological damage which may result from the war, noted the Foreign Relations Secretariat in its communique.

Foreign Ministry on Drafting of Nationals in U.S.

PA2401171791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2343 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Foreign Relations Secretariat (SRE) today reasserted that there are no agreements or accords that permit the drafting of Mexican citizens by other countries' armies.

"Mexico has signed no agreements allowing Mexicans to be subject to a recruitment or draft by other nations' Armed Forces," the SRE emphasized. Therefore, it reported, Mexican consulates in the United States have already received instructions to answer the Mexican community's consultations concerning recruitment by the U.S. Army.

According to the Mexican Government, the United States has yet to enforce a draft for U.S. citizens or foreigners, and the U.S. Armed Forces are comprised of volunteers. The SRE said that the U.S. Government has only updated its files on people who may eventually be drafted.

Referring to the registration reminder sent to some Mexicans, this was done based on the provisions of the Simpson-Rodino Law, but "the registration does not imply a draft," the SRE explained. In case a draft is enforced, it warned that the guidelines issued by the U.S. authorities will specify what type of foreigners this will apply to. The SRE added: Under these circumstances, those interested may go to the Mexican consulates in the United States to receive orientation and the necessary consular protection to safeguard their rights if they decide to legally oppose a draft.

In any case, all Mexicans living or temporarily working in the United States must freely decide what they consider necessary for their interests, the secretariat stated. If those affected by the draft decide to return to their national territory, the Mexican consulates in the United States will provide the necessary documents (identity papers, passports, or registration papers) and help with their transportation whenever necessary.

El Salvador

Bishop Claims To Possess 'Massacre' Information

PA2801004991 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1400 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Homily by Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of El Salvador, at the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] How is El Salvador? Brothers, let us look at some of the week's events. On Tuesday, 22 January, while I was participating in the 24th meeting of Central American bishops in Panama City, we learned with dismay about the violent death of 15 humble people, all members of the same family, in El Zapote Canton, in the jurisdiction of Ayutuxtepeque. The crime is too brutal to be added to the long list of murders left unsolved. That is why it is worrisome to see the discrepancies in the first public statements by the official agencies which have the delicate mission of discovering the truth and doing justice.

As soon as the archdiocese's Legal Assistance Office learned of the terrible news, it began its own investigations. So as not to interfere in the course of the [official] investigations, we are limiting ourselves, for the time being, to stating that we have valuable information which could lead to the discovery of the perpetrators of the massacre. The image of the surviving old woman and the 13-year-old boy who unhesitatingly narrated before the television cameras how he saw his mother killed show the dantesque dimensions of the massacre.

This is unfortunately El Salvador's current image. A land tormented by the most gruesome and aberrant forms of violence, where the law of the jungle continues to have the last word. It is an image that is not cleaned up solely with electoral processes, however trustworthy they are. This is so because democracy is much more than that. This opinion was also stated in the message issued by the 39 bishops of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, who met in that sister nation. [passage omitted]

Witnesses Give Testimony on U.S. Soldiers Deaths

PA2601194591 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p 19

[Text] On 23 January, the Chinameca court reported that two witnesses had testified in the case of the two U.S. soldiers who were killed in Lolotique, San Miguel.

A court spokesman stated that one of the witnesses, whose name was not given, testified that he saw the downing of the helicopter, which had occurred close to his house. He said he had also seen seven guerrillas moving about the area and was able to recognize "Dominguez," "Porfirio," "Ulises," "Aparicio," and two women. The witness said, however, that he did not see what happened later because he remained at home.

The other witness cited the same number of guerrillas and added that they had ordered him to take objects out of the helicopter. Later, he said that "Dominguez" had ordered him to get other peasants to help him and that "they would come to get him during the night if he did not do this."

The witness asserted that he saw the helicopter crew alive. He said the peasants and the guerrillas—with the exception of "Porfirio," who remained at the site of the aircraft—had left the area after all the objects were removed from the helicopter. He reported that when he was walking away "he heard a mild explosion and then several shots coming from the helicopter crash site."

He also testified that "after the shots and the explosion, "Porfirio" showed up, sweaty and tired but laughing, and that when he joined the other guerrillas and the people who were at the bend of the road, he shook hands with them as if he were greeting them, and seemed very happy."

The court spokesman said the peasant testified that "Ulises" had told him: "We were not making advances in the war, but now, with what we have done, they are going to take us more seriously." The peasant said that "Ulises" was referring to the downing of the helicopter."

The peasant added that "Dominguez" had sent him to see if the helicopter crew members were still alive. When he got to the place, he said, the helicopter was burning and the soldiers, who had been shot in the head, were in the throes of death. They died almost immediately, he added.

According to the testimony, "Dominguez" had a portable radio and the peasant heard him contact a woman on the radio.

FMLN Blames Killings on Army, Civil Defense

PA2701152691 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p 24

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) has held the Civil Defense and the Army responsible for the killing of 15 peasants in El Zapote Canton, Ayutuxtepeque jurisdiction. The FMLN claims that the Civil Defense and the Army are trying to "intimidate the population in light of the rapid expansion of the opposition political parties." This is stated in an FMLN communique that reads:

1. On the night of 21 January, members of the Armed Forces and Civil Defense, dressed in dark clothing and wearing masks, murdered 15 persons in the northern sector of the capital.

2. Most of the dead are women and elderly persons who, after being forcefully removed from their homes, were stabbed to death.

3. This criminal action is a typical terrorist operation of the Armed Forces intended to intimidate the population

as the result of the rapid expansion of the opposition political parties during the current electoral campaign and the progress of negotiations.

4. The recent massacre, unprecedented since the murder of the six Jesuit priests in November 1989, was sparked by the approval of the total amount of the U.S. military aid to the Armed Forces and carried out by government soldiers who are taking advantage of the fact that the world's attention is focused on the war in the Persian Gulf.

5. We hereby make an urgent call to the international community and to the people who are in solidarity with us to repudiate this tragic incident that proves, without a doubt, that the struggle in this country—which the soldiers have turned into a kingdom where all goes unpunished—is just.

Commentary Defends FMLN 'Fair Trial' Guarantee

PA2801005291 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Station commentary: "The Accusers Have Become the Accused"]

[Text] The trial initiated by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] against two of its former members who have been charged with war crimes against two American soldiers is becoming another issue through which to question—and in fact disqualify—the government's judicial system.

The FMLN has stated that in this case its actions will be honest and it will form a court that will include independent figures who are knowledgeable and can participate in this process, which, by all appearances, is shaping up as an unprecedented judicial event in El Salvador. This possibility has sent government officials into a panic, and now that their propaganda to discredit the FMLN has failed, they are preparing new means of preventing a clean trial.

Foreign Minister Pacas Castro and President Cristiani are attempting to disregard the FMLN's full rights as a belligerent force to prosecute and punish those of its members who perpetrate crimes.

The U.S. Government, known for its constant transgressions of international law, has announced that it will not allow representatives from U.S. humanitarian organizations, such as the Americas Watch, to serve as members of the court. As you can see, it is not enough for them to arrange the Salvadoran judicial system, which is at the service of military assassins. They are now ignoring international law in order to prevent tyhe implementation of real justice, and especially to prevent the renewed questioning of the government's judicial system.

The accusers have become the accused. It could be no other way. The Salvadoran judicial system, which is to be blamed for its failure to punish the assassins of Monsignor Romero and Priests Rutilio Grande, Alfonso Navarro, and Octavio Ortiz, along with over 70,000 Salvadorans, must once again be disqualified. No Salvadoran should ever have been allowed to fall into the hands of that ill-named justice, which has only served to legitimize the torture and humiliation inflicted on our people.

Thus, the government must not dream that we will allow it to vent its rage on two individuals, who, like all Salvadorans, first and foremost deserve humane treatment and a fair trial. We will guarantee a fair trial, despite the obstacles that may be imposed by the enemies of justice. We will wage this war, and we will also win it.

Human Rights Group Favors Continued Investigation

PA2801012491 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p 3

[Press bulletin issued by the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission in San Salvador on 22 January]

[Text] The nongovernment Salvadoran Human Rights Commission (CDHES) began an investigation immediately after it was reported that two U.S. military members had been assassinated by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] forces. The fear prevailing among the people who witnessed the crime; the diametrically opposed testimonies on the event; the way in which the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador has handled the case; and the scientific gaps in the forensic report presented by U.S. specialists presents evidence that fosters disbelief in the official version.

Our institution has voiced these doubts and believes that the investigation should continue. Our institution has also requested the cooperation of the Salvadoran Government, the U.S. Embassy in the country, and the FMLN to fully solve the case. We also pointed out that it was necessary for the FMLN to step up its investigations and, if the two members captured in connection with the crime are found guilty, not to allow this impunity within the FMLN forces.

Yesterday we were pleased to receive a report from the FMLN's Secretariat for the Sponsorship and Protection of Human Rights. It stated that the investigation has concluded and they assume responsibility for the act, thus leaving no room for speculation. Our institution believes that any violation of the international laws of war ought to be strongly condemned, so we believe that the FMLN must adopt strict measures to prevent the continuation of these cases.

Concerning the destiny of the two FMLN members guilty of the assassination, we believe that the United Nations must play a decisive role in the case. An FMLN communique rightfully says that international laws give its two members the right to be tried by the system chosen by their superiors. The UN's responsibility, however, is to guarantee that the punishment determined by the FMLN is carried out. The participation of third

parties throughout the trial and punishment of the culprits is also an important issue that should be undertaken by national and foreign human rights organizations.

Furthermore, our institution believes that any parties involved in the conflict, particularly those which have influence in military matters, should fully assume their responsibility in connection with actions that violate human rights. The FMLN's attitude is the result of a level in the war where there is no room for impunity, and where every action which violates the rights of others no longer goes unnoticed. We also hope that the government and the Army will adopt an equally responsible attitude and that they will avoid using the case for propaganda purposes, so that the end of the road toward a cease-fire on the armed conflict will be much closer.

San Salvador, 22 January, 1991.

FMLN Denies Involvement in Various Crimes

PA2601153191 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Communique issued by the Modesto Ramirez Central Front of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front 9, FMLN, in El Salvador on 24 January]

[Text] Residents of San Jose las Flores in northern (Sonacatepeque) and (Popotlan) in Apopa have sent the following information to the staff of the National Army for Democracy of the FMLN in the southern sector of Guazapa Hill:

Individuals heavily armed with high-caliber weapons, pistols, and grenades, who are partly clothed in military gear and have their faces covered with handkerchiefs, are demanding heavy war taxes from residents of these and the outlying areas while posing as FMLN members.

They are also committing a number of crimes, including thefts, rapes, store robberies, erection of barricades, assaults on bus and minibus passengers, machinegunning of public vehicles, and even murders of people who resist the robbery attempts. To confuse people they shout FMLN slogans.

These reports state that on 16 January this group of criminals arrived in (Popotlan). After committing several robberies, they raped two women and killed four men who resisted their actions. On 18 January these same criminals robbed the money collectors aboard buses and minibus in (Popotlan) while posing as FMLN members. On the evening of 22 January, during an attempt to rob the passengers of an urban bus on the Northern Trunk Highway, near the Tonacatepeque detour and an Armed Forces military position, they killed two people and seriously wounded two others. In view of these criminal actions we report the following:

1. We categorically deny any involvement of FMLN members in these crimes and also categorically reject any attempt to involve the FMLN in these actions.

2. We are quite surprised by this criminal group's ability to move around because they are operating in an area where the Armed Forces, usually the 1st Infantry Brigade and the Civil Defense, maintain a permanent and heavy military presence.

3. In view of the indifference and ineffectiveness of the Armed Forces; the ineptitude of the Salvadoran judicial system; and developments running counter to our people's interests and which aim to irresponsibly damage the FMLN's image, we warn that should actions of this nature continue we will be forced to apply revolutionary justice against these elements that are harmful to Salvadoran society.

For the sake of social justice, for the end of impunity and militarism, and for the sake of peace and democracy.

[Signed] Modesto Ramirez Central Front, southern sector of Guazapa Hill, El Salvador, 24 January.

Santamaria Comments on Assuming New Duties

PA2601233891 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Doctor Oscar Santamaria, spokesman for the government's dialogue commission, voiced his optimism this morning about the short-term possibility of reaching agreements with the guerrillas. He also confirmed that, beginning next week, he will assume the duties of presidency minister, a post that has remained vacant since the murder of Dr. Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth.

Dr. Oscar Santamaria announced that his transfer will occur on 28 January and added that Dr. Rene Hernadez Valiente will assume the duties of justice minister on that same date.

[Begin Santamaria recording] We believe that it is convenient, when we have the opportunity, to report to the media on the achievements of our administration during the one year and eight months that we have been in this ministry—the Justice Ministry. [end recording]

Dr. Santamaria also announced the implementation of a project for the reorganization of the registry system, which includes the commerce and real estate property registry.

[Begin Santamaria recording] With this project, which we began over one year ago, we are completing reorganizing the registry system. It will be ready in early April. With the reforms in some legislative aspects, which will undoubtedly have to be adjusted, the system will be able to operate properly. [end recoding]

Upon leaving the Justice Ministry, Dr. Santamaria added that he undertook projects for the reorganization

of the penal system and the reinstatement of an information system at the Justice Ministry.

Regarding the dialogue process, Minister Oscar Santamaria said that there are possibilities of attaining a cease-fire before the elections. He concluded that the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front have already reached agreements on the military and justice issues.

Armed Forces High Command Establishes New Office

PA2801014791 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] The Armed Forces High Command has created an office intended exclusively to supervise the behavior of its forces and ensure that troops remain fully neutral and apolitical.

An authorized Defense Ministry spokesman announced yesterday that this office will be headed by Colonel Napoleon Hernandez Marin, currently on leave from the Adjutant's Office.

The spokesman added that, from this date onward, this office is to watch and to ensure that all its troops remain impartial, neutral, and apolitical, and that they can guarantee the elections scheduled for 10 March 1991.

The spokesman explained that precise instructions had already been issued to all Army units; but to ensure tighter compliance and to avoid any sort of speculation, citizens may report any abnormal activity to telephone numbers 23-4776 or 23-0233.

Without exception, the spokesman said, no active soldier, whatever his rank, may belong to any political party, much less run for office. No voting will be allowed at military installations.

In addition, no soldier can hinder, prevent, or disturb the voting. To the contrary, all Armed Forces members are obligated to give fullest possible cooperation to local and international organizations to ensure that the elections take place within a framework of absolute tranquility and democracy.

If during the previous decade everything done by the Armed Forces was exemplary, the spokesman noted, today, when democracy is becoming firmer, the soldiers will put greater effort in ensuring the elections are completely honest and fair, just like in the past.

Refugees Protest Government Welcome on Return

PA2601234091 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 7

[Letter to the "national and international community" written by Salvadoran refugees upon their return to El Salvador from Panama—dated 23 January]

[Text] We report the following to the national and international community:

1. President Cristiani told us several times that he would receive us with open arms. Instead, today we were welcomed by four armored vehicles, and 3d infantry brigade soldiers from San Miguel accompanied us to El Triunfo.

2. The lieutenant commanding these forces refused to let the refugees hold a welcome mass in El Triunfo. He accused the refugees of being manipulated by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] "cover organizations". He said that he would not let them hold the mass, eat, or rest in that area.

3. When the convoy finally reached El Triunfo, the people got off the buses and walked to the church to hold the mass, thanking God for their return after 11 years in exile.

4. We also want to say that we have been deceived by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], as well as by the Salvadoran Government. They had reached several agreements among themselves without consulting us, for example:

a) we were to arrive at the cargo terminal instead of the international passenger terminal;

b) only the UNHCR was allowed to greet us. Our relatives and other humanitarian and religious organizations were not allowed in the area:

c) the date of our arrival was not announced until the last moment, leaving our relatives no time to come and welcome us.

5. We are very concerned because the organizations that supported our repatriation are not being given credit for their efforts. They are being accused of being "fronts" for the FMLN, which implies that we are the same thing. Ciudad Romero Community 23 January 1991

Guatemala

Serrano Willing To 'Negotiate' With Insurgents

PA2801014891 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] President Jorge Serrano has said he does not agree with the proposals for a cease-fire truce with the rebels. What we need right now, he said, is the establishment of lasting peace in the country. I am willing to negotiate with the insurgents as long as their leaders show political willingness to do so.

My government, he added, is open to dialogue and I have shown this with actions. When I was the representative of the political parties in the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR), I went to all the meetings with the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] leadership.

I urge the Guatemalan insurgents to choose the path of dialogue and negotiation, where I think we can find a

solution to the internal armed conflict which has caused deaths and wounded, the president added.

Serrano said that by damaging the country's infrastructure, the guerrillas are not affecting the government but the people in general.

The path of peaceful negotiation between the government and the URNG leadership is what must prevail at this time, the president stressed.

If the guerrillas continue attacking, they will definitely force the country's security forces to counterattack, the president concluded.

Appoints Police Chief

PA2601030791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0006 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias has appointed Colonel Manuel Polanco to the post of deputy government minister and Colonel Mario Paiz to the post of national police chief. Both officials were sworn into their new posts today.

Paiz replaces Colonel Julio Caballeros, who headed the national police twice during former President Vinicio Cerezo's administration. According to the local media, Caballeros was characterized as having a firm hand.

Polanco, the new deputy government minister, was the congressional president during the Romeo Lucas Garcia's administration (1978-1982). According to human rights organizations, this period was marked with human rights violations.

Government Minister Ricardo Mendez, who swore in the two new officials, said that Polanco, who was censured for his actions during the previous administration, "is a clean and honest man."

The national police directorate is a big challenge for President Serrano's government because the Guatemalan Human Rights Attorney General's office made it responsible for more than 100 basic rights violations during 1990. Enrique Paiz Bolanos, the new national police chief, is an infantry colonel.

To Enforce Human Rights

PA2601220791 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE 23 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] President Jorge Serrano Elias paid a courtesy call on Ramiro de Leon Carpio, the attorney general for human rights. The president said: "My government is willing to respect human rights in Guatemala so that we will not be criticized internationally. Any government official who violates human rights will be punished according to the law."

He said: "I will prevent government officials from violating human rights, to the best of my ability. I will act resolutely against those who do. They will be punished in accordance with the law because I will not protect anyone."

He added: "Today I decided to visit Leon Carpio, the attorney general for human rights, to express all my support for the work he is doing in this important post. I hope that we will work together to get good results."

President Serrano said: "I am not going to protect any minor official who violates human rights because he is merely tarnishing the government's image."

He added: "In the next few days, I plan to visit Edmundo Vasquez Martinez, president of the Supreme Court and the nation's attorney general, to ensure that the law is correctly implemented." Serrano was accompanied by Public Health Minister Miguel Angel Montepeque, Defense Minister General Luis Enrique Mendoza Garcia, Government Minister Colonel Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, and Guillermo Gonzalez Flores, his private secretary.

Ramiro de Leon Carpio thanked the president for his visit. He said: "I am very pleased to see your government's concern about the human rights issue because our country needs to consolidate the democratic process."

He also said that he hopes there will be close cooperation with the government authorities so that when his office requests reports, they will be sent quickly in order to speed the investigations.

De Leon Carpio stressed his commitment to continue fulfilling his duties with due efficiency and firmness. He said that he will report anyone and will speak out regardless of the indiviudal or institution involved.

Army Accuses Guerrillas of 'Sabotaging' Oil Wells

PA2801015991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1627 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Army charged today that the guerrillas have been sabotaging oil wells in the northern part of the country ever since the war began in the Persian Gulf.

A spokesman for the Armed Forces explained that in addition to attacking the tank trucks that carry fuel to distributors, the rebels are also attacking the oil sources in the northern Alta Verapaz Department.

The guerrillas sabotaged the oil pipeline in Raxrruja municipality that takes petroleum to the refineries, and this further harms the precarious economic situation of Guatemala, the military communique explains.

In spite of the Army's efforts to control the "terrorist delinquents," these individuals continue to attack and hide in the mountains, the communique adds.

On 23 January, over 500 rebel fighters blew up three power pylons in Alta Verapaz and left several towns in the area without electricity.

Meanwhile, it was reported today that one soldier was killed and another one was wounded in combat with the guerrillas in the northwestern San Marcos Department.

Colonel Edgar Ortega, chief of the Information and Press Department of the Army (DIDE), said that the guerrillas are engaging in "political warfare" to show they are active despite the "military defeat" they have sustained.

URNG Plans To Attack Government Agencies

PA2601005491 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 6

[Text] Guerrillas, members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), have destroyed several electrical posts in Fray Bartolome de las Casas, in Alta Verapaz, a reliable source has reported.

The source reported that the guerrillas held a meeting near the town, which they have raided frequently during the past few days.

The source said that similar actions have been conducted in Chisec, Alta Verapaz, where the town was left without electricity, telephone communications, or drinking water.

During the meeting, the guerrillas said that they will soon attack institutions like Bandesa (National Development Bank), Guatel (Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise), and Inta (National Institute of Agrarian Reform).

Elsewhere, it was reported that the owners of the bus lines serving the area have asked the army for protection. Over the past few days several buses have been intercepted by the guerrillas who hold meetings and rob the passengers of their belongings and cash.

Claim 71 Casualties Inflicted

PA2401171591 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p 6

[Text] In a communique sent to SIGLO VEINTIUNO, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) has reported that it inflicted 71 casualties on the Army from 3 December to 5 January.

The communique says that "during that period, the URNG has attacked, harassed, and engaged in strong battles with Army troops in the departments of El Quiche, El Peten, and Escuintla, inflicting the aforementioned number of casualties."

It added that the URNG has carried out an extensive and successful propaganda campaign during which it explained its desire to seek a solution to the internal armed conflict involving hundreds of people.

New Law on Army Sets Officers' Retirement Age

PA2301163191 Guatemala City SIGLO VENTIUNO in Spanish 20 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] A new Army law, which was published as Decree No. 72-90 by DIARIO DE CENTROAMERICA on 17 January, will come into effect next week. The draft law, which was approved during the last sessions of the previous legislative period, was received by the Defense Commission of the Congress in May 1990, a few days before Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo left the post.

It was General Leonel Bolanos who repeatedly met with the Defense Commission and the party leaders to persuade the congressmen of the importance of this law. From the Army's point of view, the most important change the new law introduces is to set retirement for high-ranking officers at 33 years of service—counted from the time they are commissioned officers. Previously, the time was computed from the time the person enrolled in the Polytechnic School.

The change will benefit officers who graduated after 1967, but will not affect most of the current high-ranking Army officers. The Defense Ministry argued to the congressmen that if the change was not made, the Army would be prevented from taking advantage—for a longer period of time—of the experience of officers who had potentially reached the end of their military career. In the opinion of Gen. Bolanos, changing the retirement age would contribute toward the modernization of the Army.

Even though Congress eventually approved the law, it made several important changes to the original draft. In doing so, it eliminated the "civil defense" concept, even though chapter two of the approved law establishes that "the armed groups that the law regulates should be coordinated, controlled, and supervised by the Guatemalan Army." Congress also removed from Army control the National Geographical Institute, which was militarized under the de facto government of General Efrain Rios Montt. Congress has returned it to the Communications Ministry. Congress also eliminated radio communications permits from military control.

Other topics of national importance, however, such as recruitment and obligatory military service, were not included in the new law, and will be developed through regulations the Army itself will draft, without the need to submit them to legislative approval.

Honduras

AFP Reports 'Unusual' Military Deployment

PA2801015491 Paris AFP in Spanish 0013 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 27 Jan (AFP)—There was an unusual military deployment in the Tegucigalpa air base

today, one day after the replacement of Colonel Roberto Mendoza, commander general of the Honduran Air Force, and other officers.

Soldiers armed with M-16 rifles were posted at the main gate, but the deployment was described by military sources as a "routine emergency [emergencia rutinaria] operation."

Mendoza's replacement was decided on 26 January. The announcement caused general surprise among the populace, and it provoked the opposition of Mendoza and other high-ranking officers on the Air Force bases in San Pedro Sula (in the north), in La Ceiba (on the Caribbean coast), and in Palmerola (in central Honduras), an Air Force sublieutenant told AFP.

After he learned of his replacement, Mendoza garrisoned himself [se acuartelo] on the Tegucigalpa air base; then there was unusual troop movement, the same sources said.

Mendoza was appointed director of Population and Immigration Policy.

The Army high command announced in a communique today that Col. Roberto Mendoza has been replaced by Colonel Hector Castro Cabus.

It is a routine change and "should not cause alarm among the population," the communique indicated. It added that there were also changes in the 2d, 3d, 7th, and 12th Infantry Battalions "in a process of organizing a new internal command."

This process began when General Luis Alonso Discua, the new commander in chief of the Armed Forces, took command in mid December, a military source indicated.

This week Discua ruled out any possibility of a coup d'etat against President Rafael Callejas, whose administration was a year old this Sunday.

Military Changes Noted

PA2701052291 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0448 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] We are repeating these appointments which were made today and were made official by the Honduran Armed Forces. We want to note, however, that although we do not want to alarm our listeners, this afternoon restrictions were placed on the entry of relatives and, even Honduran Armed Forces officers, to... [changes thought] Today we saw that several colonels tried to enter Honduran Air Force installations, but they were not allowed in. In fact, baseball games scheduled to be held there were canceled. An unusual movement of Armed Forces troops inside the Air Force installations was seen. There were barricades outside these installations.

When we asked if there was any internal movement, we were able to confirm at the Air Force installations that these were routine exercises.

It was now reported, however, that Colonel Mendoza Garay has been replaced as the Air Force's general commander. It seems that the activity seen inside the installations was the result of some resistance or perhaps it was just a measure to protect the place.

The changes announced tonight are as follows: Colonel Hector Castro Cabuz is the new general commander of the Honduran Air Force; Colonel Francisco Bustillo Murcia was appointed commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion; Colonel Rigoberto Padilla Bejarano was appointed commander of the 1st Cavalry Regiment; Colonel Angel Castillo Maradiaga, commander of the 1st Communications Battalion; and Colonel Alvaro Reyes Lopez is the new commander of the Army's Logistical Support Center.

The Honduran Armed Forces have been maintaining and tirelessly repeating that these changes are normal and that they should not be a cause for alarm among the Honduran people. The movements witnessed today, however, suggest this news has had some repercussions. If there is nothing to worry about, then the Armed Forces should appease the Hondurans.

Callejas Swears in New Security Officials

PA2801043491 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Rafael Leonardo Callejas has sworn in Colonel Alvaro Antonio Romero as defense and public security minister and Colonel Luis Alonso Valderramos as deputy defense and public security minister.

Col. Romero, a former member of the joint staff, replaces Francisco Zepeda Andino, who has been appointed as the new ambassador to El Salvador. Zepeda Andino replaces Napoleon Alvarez.

Valderramos, who was director of the Army's Military Training Center, replaces Colonel Cesar Maradiaga.

They were sworn in at the Government House at 1600 in the presence of Government and Justice Minister Francisco Cardona Arguelles.

The change in the Defense Ministry is the first to be made in this administration's cabinet.

Callejas had said before the end of 1990 that he would not make any cabinet changes because he was satisfied with the job done by each minister.

Carias Zapata: No Troops in Persian Gulf

PA2601015091 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Mario Carias Zapata reported yesterday that the government had contracted seamen to evacuate Hondurans who were in Israel and in the occupied territories. This decision was made in order to avoid problems in light of the increased attacks by Iraq on Israel.

The minister said that although the majority of the Hondurans—many of them students—had already left, some still remained. Zapata disclosed that Yuri Leiva, charge d'affairs at the Honduran Embassy in Israel, had already left the area.

The foreign minister insisted adamantly that the Honduran Government does not have any troops or personnel of any kind deployed in the Persian Gulf; therefore, it is not part of the multinational force.

Zapata explained that there had been some confusion in the media, "because in September we had offered to deploy forces, but the issues of logistics, command, and organization had not been settled. Besides, the matter had not been discussed with congress either," the minister claimed.

"Since the beginning the government has said that if there was a need, Honduras could send soldiers or observers in a peacekeeping force. Honduras has made an offer to the UN Secretary General to send send officers or a small contingency in a peacekeeping force," said the foreign minister.

Entry of Iraqi, Libyan Citizens Restricted

PA2601153391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0045 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Colonel Jose Francisco Bustillo Murcia, general director of population and immigration policy, announced today that the government has established restrictions for Iraqi and Libyan citizens traveling to Honduras.

Bustillo Murcia said that while Honduras cannot prohibit someone from entering the country because of his or her nationality, it has decided to adopt a policy of "restricting" the entry of foreigners coming from some of the countries involved in the Persian Gulf conflict. He added that the Immigrations Directorate will request extensive information from foreigners coming from some areas in the Persian Gulf, to make sure that they are not dangerous.

He also confirmed that the directorate authorized the entry of 16 Nicaraguan "laborers" who will work in Honduras for four months in the coffee harvest in the eastern El Paraiso Department. El Paraiso Department, which borders on Nicaragua, was a sanctuary for approximately 12,000 former Nicaraguan contras who used Honduras to attack Nicaragua. Peasant leaders have warned about the danger that former contras might return to Honduras, taking advantage of the need for coffee pickers.

Bustilo Murcia said, however, that there is no intention of granting more permits to Nicaraguan laborers to enter the country. He said that 167 Nicaraguans were authorized to work as coffee pickers because the coffee beans were ripe and producers in the eastern region were in need of laborers at the time.

Nicaragua

COSEP Urges Stricter Economic Measures

PA2601225391 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] The Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP, issued a communique yesterday to pressure the government to adopt certain economic measures. The communique urges the following: Continue efforts to reduce the fiscal deficit to curb inflationary effects; further reduce military and bureaucratic expenditures; to eliminate distortions in the economy; and to imeediately end the circulation of the cordoba oro, which should be adjusted to its real price. Let us listen to an excerpt of the COSEP communique read by COSEP President Gilberto Cuadra:

[Begin recording] We believe that the (?so-called) concerted effort agreements must be reviewed in order to establish a true legal state that will guarantee the country's economic, social, and political stability, which are factors needed for productive development and promotion of foreign investment in this country.

We believe that the enterprises that will be privatized should be sold to people with proven managerial skills. Otherwise, we would be condemning their workers to join the ranks of the unemployed. In the case of privatization of enterprises—that is, return them to its owners—the government is fully authorized to sell part of their ownership to the workers on an individual basis.

We believe that Nicaragua needs an economic stabilization plan and the establishment of a [words indistinct] program. We have noticed with much dismay that the deficit has grown since the concerted agreements were reached. Therefore, we believe that the following measures should be implemented immediately:

A) Reduce the fiscal deficit to a prudent level in keeping with our economic capabilities. We also request the diversion of military expenditures to expenditures that will [word indistinct] other areas that a priority for the Nicaraguans.

B) Eliminate the distortions in the cost of services such a water, electricity, telephone, fuel, port, customs, and so on.

C) Establish a single currency, because no country can manage its economy with three different currencies.

D) Devalue the cordoba oro to adjust it to the current situation of our economy.

COSEP is always willing to work toward consensus among Nicaraguans in order to remove our country from this disastrous situation. [Signed] COSEP

Managua, 23 January 1991. [end recording]

Government Restricts Sale of Gold Cordobas

PA2701185491 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The Central Bank does not have any dollars to continue the free exchange of gold cordobas for dollars. Central Bank President Raul Lacayo said on 25 January on state television that the gold cordoba will remain on par with the dollar, but will only be sold to importers and for certain services.

Lacayo described this plan as a effort to curb the Nicaraguan economy's dollarization. He underscored that dollars will not be sold to the public in exchange for gold cordobas. The regular cordoba will continue to be devaluated, Lacayo said, adding that the gold cordoba will not be devaluated.

Workers Support Democracy, Demand Land Reforms

PA2401205291 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1330 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] During a regular meeting, the autonomous Nicaraguan Workers Federation approved a set of objectives to consolidate the organization at home and abroad.

In a communique, the labor union expressed support for the growing democracy in Nicaragua and demanded the implementation of land reform to guarantee land for anyone willing to work it and make it productive.

The federation also expressed full approval of the government's privatization plan in favor of the workers that will not affect the government's goal to reduce the fiscal deficit and revive the economy.

The communique also acknowledged the positive efforts being made by the government of Violeta de Chamorro to lay the foundation for the stabilization and depolarization of our society despite the enormous economic crisis facing the country

FMLN Communique Protests Media 'Campaign'

PA2601015691 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] of El Salvador has issued a communique denouncing the anti-Salvadoran campaign by some Nicaraguan media, although it did not specify which media. The FMLN also denied press reports that make the organization appear to be responsible for the destruction of a Sandinist People's Army magazine in Punta Huete last Saturday.

The Salvadoran guerrillas say that the campaign is aimed at discrediting Salvadorans who live in Nicaragua and this directly affects the personal safety of hundreds of families who left El Salvador because they were politically persecuted, the communique explains.

Daniel Ortega Meets European Parliament Members

PA2501151691 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p 5

[Report by Sergio De Castro]

[Text] Strasbourg—German Socialist Deputy Jannis Sakellarion has said that Europe lost the initiative in the Persian Gulf crisis. He admitted the European governments' subordination to U.S. policy in that region.

Sakellarion, who heads the European Parliament's Commission for Middle East Affairs, said that the United States did not consult with Europe before beginning its attacks against Iraq and that "Europe failed in its efforts to prevent the war."

There was an intense debate on the Gulf crisis yesterday at the European Parliament, which discussed a resolution on the conflict. Former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega was present; he contacted various parliamentarians to discuss the peace initiative he has been promoting to find a solution to end the war. Ortega will continue to meet with members of the European Parliament today before leaving for Cyprus tonight to meet with President George Vassiliou.

Last night Strasbourg was the setting for another demonstration against the war in the Persian Gulf while, at the parliament, the deputies voted on a resolution regarding the crisis in that region.

At the same time, former president Ortega, accompanied by former foreign minister Miguel D'Escoto, completed an intense schedule of meetings with European parliamentarians of different political tendencies, with whom he exchanged points of view on the war in the Persian Gulf and on how to end the conflict.

The day began with a meeting with Sakellarion, followed by a meeting with French socialist deputy Claude Cheysson.

Later Ortega had lunch with Sakellarion, Cheysson, Spain's Fernando Moran, and the U.K.'s Allan Donelly, all of them members of the socialist group at the European Parliament. In the afternoon, the Sandinist leader met at the parliament building with the socialist deputies and with that organization's president, Spain's Enrique Baron.

Ortega also met with representatives of the liberal, communist, and green groups. Due to the conflict, the debate on the European Community's ability to propose an independent policy concerning the major global problems was the main topic discussed.

In early January, French President Francois Miterrand tried to launch a proposal at the last minute to solve the situation created by the invasion of Kuwait. Miterrand's proposal, which included the initiation of a peace process as soon as Iraq announced its intention to leave Kuwait, was launched when the pro-war atmosphere between Iraq and the United States was at its peak. The

United States immediately announced that it did not accept the proposal because it did not include Iraq's total withdrawal from Kuwait, but only the announcement of its intentions to withdraw.

The Iraqis, threatened by the presence of approximately 500,000 foreign soldiers in Saudi Arabia, felt that accepting the French proposal would be like surrendering in view of the threats of a military attack, which they were not willing to accept.

Sakellarion agreed that the American decision to go to war took the initiative away from the Europeans because they wanted to "make the sanctions against Iraq work." His opinion is that the ships and troops sent to the Persian Gulf by the European countries were meant to "enforce the sanctions and not the war." The German deputy said that the situation started changing in late October, when the United States began preparing for war.

Sakellarion said that it is still possible to solve the war through negotiations and insisted that the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops is the basis for a solution to the problem. He explained that the socialist group at the parliament supports a solution similar to the terms of Miterrand's proposal. The first step for such a solution would be a statement from the Iraqi Government saying that it will withdraw from Kuwait, followed by a cease-fire and the replacement of the Iraqi troops with UN troops.

Panama

President Endara Criticizes Mexico, Rio Group

PA2701164691 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Jan 91 pp 1, A-2

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara yesterday strongly attacked Mexico and the South American Group of Rio which he accused of preferring "a dictatorship to a democracy" and of being very "selfish" towards Panama during its struggle against the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"Even though we love them, we cannot help but have those bad memories," Endara told a group of reporters. Endara described as "absurd" the principle of nonintervention that Latin America used as an excuse not to pressure Gen. Noriega.

Endara expressed surprise in light of the alleged attitude assumed by the Group of Rio—which comprises approximately 11 countries—because "we have received all sorts of insults to make us feel inferior."

"I have no doubt that the Group of Rio preferred the military dictatorship to democracy," Endara said, adding that "the way they treated the dictatorship (Noriega's dictatorship) was much better than the way they treat the democratic regime."

Endara said that the delegates from Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela, all members of the Group of Rio, are in Panama to ask us to support the "abuses of the countries that have given political asylum to persons who are not even politicians."

Endara accused the embassies of Mexico, Cuba, Ecuador, and Peru—where five former civilian and military officials of the overthrown regime of Gen. Noriega have sought refuge—of "abusing" the right to label a person who has sought asylum.

According to the president, the case should be discussed before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. He warned that those countries do not want to expose themselves to the Panamanian allegations.

Endara accused Mexico of alleged blackmail that consists of not giving Panama oil if Panama does not grant a safe conduct to Rafael Arosemena, former director of the National Bank of Panama.

"Mexico has refused to sell us oil if we do not give them the thief they have at their embassy," Endara said.

"I would prefer not to buy a single drop of oil from Mexico rather than submit to their blackmail," Endara said, admitting that "unnecessary distancing is taking place" with the Group of Rio countries.

Endara believes that countries that offered asylum have "abused" the Caracas Convention.

Endara said that Panama has "plenty of misgivings" about the Group of Rio and reiterated that there "has been an abuse of the law" by describing Rafael Arosemena (Mexico), Luis Gomez (Cuba), Rodolfo Chiari De Leon (Ecuador), Heraclides Sucre and Gonzalo Gonzalez (Peru) as political refugees.

"Mexico has abused its right to describe (Rafael) Arosemena's crime," Endara said. He repeated the same accusation against Peru.

Linares Apologizes for Endara Statement

PA2601012791 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2350 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares, acting for himself and on behalf of President Guillermo Endara, apologized today to the Mexican people and Government for recent statements made by the Panamanian chief of state about Mexican blackmail.

[Begin Linares recording] The president told me that he used the word blackmail in responding to a question that he had been asked. He and I, however, are aware of the fact that the way in which the word was used could create a conflict with Mexico, and for this reason, speaking for myself, and on behalf of the president, and for the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, we want to be the first ones to offer our apology to the Mexican Government

and people for any inconvenience this incident may cause because we want and desire diplomatic relations at the highest level.

If an apology is due, we offer it because the statement made is not helping to improve relations between our countries, which, unfortunately, are already very bad. The Panamanian Government and Foreign Ministry have always been in favor of improving them.

We hope these relations will reach the highest level.

Since this is how we feel, we are inviting the Mexican charge d'affaires in Panama over so that we can explain this to her. [end recording]

MLAA Draft 'Delivered' to U.S. Ambassador

PA2501215091 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 26-A

[Article by Vilma E. Figueroa]

[Text] Yesterday the Panamanian Foreign Ministry delivered a draft of the Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement [MLAA] to U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton. In this document, Panama reiterated its interest in fighting international drug trafficking and money laundering.

In a communique addressed to that nation, the Foreign Ministry states that Panama, which was a victim of a military dictatorship that was linked to international drug trafficking and that discredited Panama's image abroad, is interested in fighting drug trafficking and money laundering.

The document adds that the draft has been carefully prepared to insure that the necessary assistance will be provided to fight the crimes already listed and other crimes.

The note states that because of Panama's interest in fighting these crimes, the national government will carry out diplomatic efforts to secure from other governments the reciprocal assistance necessary to fight international drug trafficking, money laundering, and the acquisition of assets derived from these activities.

The draft has not been made public. It is expected that the Foreign Ministry will provide further information on this issue in the next few days.

Top Officials Comment on Rio Group Visit

PA2601234691

[Editorial report] Panama City's Radio KW Continente at 1200 GMT on 25 January broadcasts an hour-long report on the Group of Rio's visit to Panama to resolve the problem of Noriega supporters who, after being charged with embezzlement and corruption, have sought asylum at various embassies. The report includes taped statements on the subject by Civic Crusade member Fernando Boyd, Planning and Economic Policy Minister Guillermo Ford, and Foreign Minister Julio Linares.

The report opens with the remarks of KW Continente's News Director Homero Londono, who says that the Group of Rio's visit has been widely criticized by various sectors as it is viewed as an attempt to meddle in Panama's private affairs. Londono's remarks are followed by those of Civic Crusade board member Fernando Boyd, who had told Londono during a taped interview that he hopes the Group of Rio will see and hear the truth concerning the requests they are making. "It is very clear to me"—Boyd said—"that asylum can be granted to an individual who is undergoing political persecution, but the individuals who are currently at embassies are fugitives because they are common criminals. They are criminals who have used diplomatic means to escape Panamanian justice. The Panamanian people will never allow this."

Meanwhile, in a recorded news conference, Planning and Economic Policy Minister Guillermo Ford said, concerning the individuals who have sought asylum, that Panama's position is that Rafael Arosemena and the individuals at the Peruvian Embassy are common criminals and must face Panamanian justice. When asked by an unidentified reporter if pressure is being exerted on Panama to grant safe conducts to the individuals in questions, Ford said that "Panama is trying to maintain the best relations with all of the Latin American countries. I would shun the word pressure because we are not going to be pressured by anyone. We have been quite firm, however; common criminals must face Panamanian justice."

When asked about the Electoral Tribunal's decree banning government officials from carrying out political activites, Ford replied: "I do not fully agree with the Electoral Tribunal's resolution, but I must respect it and abide by it."

The report concludes with a seven-minute recorded interview with Foreign Minister Julio Linares by unidentified reporters. Linares referred to the visit of the Group of Rio representatives to Panama and his "frank and sincere conversation with them." The foreign minister said that the representatives of the Group of Rio "have not come here to impose on Panama any particular behavior," and added that they are here "to listen to our viewpoint." Linares noted the "undeniable importance of the Group of Rio," and at the same time explained the Panamanian position in the wake of Panama's suspension from the Group of Rio. Dr. Linares expressed that "out of dignity, the government led by President Endara must not request its reinstatement in the Group of Rio." The foreign minister stressed that despite the fact that there are people in asylum at the embassies of Peru and Ecuador, relations with these countries are excellent." He said that relations with Latin American countries may improve provided that safe conducts are granted to the five people under asylum in diplomatic missions, "we have to pay a price if we maintain our position of not granting the safe conducts," he added. Linares concluded the interview by reiterating the "government's position on not granting safe conducts."

Endara Signs Amendments to Judicial Code

PA2501161891 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p2a

[Report by Elkilla Santos]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has signed Law No. 3 ammending the Judicial Code. The amendments will speed up the legal process and prevent prisons from becoming "schools of crime" because of overcrowding and poor living conditions.

Endara signed the law in the Yellow Room of the Presidency in the presence of Supreme Court magistrates; Jorge Ramon Valdez, acting attorney general; Ramon Lima, deputy minister of government and justice; and Pedro David, UN legal adviser for crime prevention.

Supreme Court President Carlos Lucas Lopez said that this law will partially end overcrowding in prisons because it contains measures that replace the preventive arrest regulations. Lopez explained that until now, authorities investigating a crime—no matter how petty—had to resort to the preventive arrest clause.

One of the worst problems Panamanian justice has had to face after the fall of Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime is the overcrowding of prisons. Because of this overcrowding, many prisoners have remained in jail without being tried.

The President of the Supreme Court said that Panama is among the Latin American countries with the most prisoners who have not been tried.

Prisons became "schools of crime" and the goal to reincorporate prisoners into society could not be achieved because they had become "habitual criminals"

With the signing of this law, 25 percent of the country's 3,000 prisoners will be freed in the next few days. The new law will apply to individuals who have been sentenced to up to two years in prison.

PTJ Director Loaiza Confirms 'Retirement'

PA2501215491 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 8-A

[Article by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] "Everything has a beginning and an end," Inspector Leslie Loaiza has said, confirming his retirement from the post of director of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ].

Inspector Loaiza said that President Guillermo Endara has his resignation and is currently studying other candidates for the post in order to pick the most suitable one.

Regarding his retirement, Loaiza, 45, said: "I will leave with satisfaction on two accounts: One, I have the satisfaction of having done my duty and, the other is, I have a clear conscience and the only thing that will disturb my sleep is the crying of my granddaughter."

The PTJ director expressed appreciation to President Endara, Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon, government officials, and to the Panamanian people who believed in him. This permitted him to overcome the criticism leveled against him, he said.

Regarding his possible replacement, he said that the government will know who to pick. He recommended that before the person is appointed the government consider the people, because they are the ones who will pay the price for the poor operation of the corps.

He agreed that the new PTJ director must be a lawyer, but at the same time have the feelings of a policeman, be dedicated to his profession, and be honest.

Linares Favors Granting Safe-Conducts

PA2601213291 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 1

[Article by Gionela Jordan V.]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares said yesterday that should the government not grant safe-conducts to five individuals holed up at various diplomatic missions in this capital, Panama's standing with other Latin American countries could deteriorate politically and diplomatically, and the country could become economically isolated.

"We must understand something: Five individuals are holed up at diplomatic missions of Latin American countries for which the right to asylum is virtually sacred; if we want to improve our relations with those countries and prevent them from deteriorating, we would have to grant safe conducts to these individuals," Linares pointed out.

The foreign minister added that the current government and Foreign Ministry's position is "to not grant safe-conducts," but he added that as head of the Foreign Relations Ministry he is obliged to explain what could be the consequences and effects of maintaining such a position.

At present, former soldiers Gonzalo Gonzalez and Heraclides Sucre, members of the defunct Panama Defense Forces who have been linked to the murder of Major Moises Giroldi, are holed up at the Peruvian Embassy in this capital; former national bank manager Rafael Arosemena, who is accused of embezzling millions of dollars, is at the Mexican Embassy; former Government Minister Rodolfo "Popito" Chiari de Leon, who is accused of preventing free speech, is at the Ecuadoran Embassy; and former Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Luis Gomez, who is accused of murder and inciting violence, is at the Cuban Embassy.

"As long as we do not grant them safe- conducts or find another solution, our relations with Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and other Latin American countries, could further deteriorate," Foreign Minister Linares said.

Linares made these statements after attending a meeting at the Presidency with members of the Group of Rio, from which Panama has been "temporarily suspended."

The Group of Rio delegation arrived two days ago and has participated in a number of meetings with top government officials, including President Guillermo Endara, Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, and Foreign Minister Julio Linares, to discuss Panama's Latin American policy.

Eliecer Bernal To Be Denied Safe-Conduct

PA2801015391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Jan 91 p 1A

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has hinted at the possibility of turning down the safe-conduct request by former Captain Jorge Eliecer Bernal, who on 22 January sought temporary asylum at the Guatemalan Embassy together with former Lieutenant Mario Ramos Ocana—both have been accused of participating in the foiled 5 December coup attempt.

On 25 January, Julio Berrios, director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Affairs Office, asked the Attorney General's Office to provide a report on the charges filed against the two former military officers.

The Attorney General's Office has confirmed that there are charges filed against Bernal for his alleged participation in the murder of worker Yito Barrantes, which took place in March 1986.

A Foreign Ministry bulletin disclosed that, based on the information received from the authorities on the investigation, it has been determined that the government has no objections to granting a safe-conduct to former Lt. Ramon Ocana, because he has been charged with crimes of a political nature.

In the case of Bernal, the report presented by the Attorney General's Office, in which he is charged with murder, will be sent to the foreign mission so that, upon evaluating the situation of the former captain, it can have all the facts to issue its final ruling in accordance with the Caracas Convention.

Meanwhile, on 25 January, Attorney Sidney Sitton sent to the Foreign Ministry a copy of the suit he filed against Bernal before the Third Prosecutor's Office on 5 October, 1990. Sitton said that the former chief of the Dobermans [former Panama Defense Forces riot police] is a "common criminal and it would be a legal aberration to grant him a safe-conduct."

Arias Calderon Comments on Political Campaigning

PA2401185491 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Jan 91 pp 1, A-2

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president of the Republic and president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has said that the constitution of the Republic of Panama does not prohibit the participation of government officials in the political campaigns of their respective parties.

Arias Calderon, who is also government and justice minister, was asked his opinion on whether or not it is legal for presidents, vice presidents, ministers, and other government officials to openly support the electoral campaign of members of their parties, as reported in the media during the past few weeks.

Arias Calderon said that what the constitution does prohibit is the use of state funds in electoral campaigns, which he has not done. He added that whenever he has participated in such campaigns he has "strictly used PDC funds and not state funds."

Politicians from progovernment and opposition parties have been reporting irregularities in various parts of the country concerning the use of state funds by various candidates who are members of the ruling parties.

Regarding accusations made by PDC Secretary General Ivan Romero regarding irregularities in the Electoral Tribunal and actions against the PDC by Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] members, Arias Calderon said: "I believe he was right in saying what he said."

He stressed, however, that this does not mean that there is any rupture within the government's alliance created during the 1989 elections to face the government-backed political coalition at that time.

Arias Calderon added that the only thing that recent charges made by the PDC show is that "we are in a democracy and that we all have the right to present our complaints, point out mistakes, and try to correct them."

Argentina

Cavallo Gives Details of 'Secret' Deal With Iraq

PY2601150491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1003 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Jan (TELAM)—In a letter answering former Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has verified the existence of two secret decrees that allowed development of the Condor-2 missile during former President Raul Alfonsin's administration. Cavallo's letter says it is absolutely true that with the authorization of two secret executive branch decrees that were similar in general terms—Decree No. 604, dated 9 April 1985, and Decree No. 1315, dated 13 August 1987—missile technology was transferred to Iraq which is where the funds to finance the Condor-2 came from.

In his letter, Minister Cavallo asserts that this was possible because the aforementioned decrees authorized the financing of technological development through a balanced exchange of space [espacial] industry materiel.

Cavallo also tells Jaunarena that the very serious political mistake made by the government to which you belonged does not lie so much in the country to which the technology was supplied and which generated the funds—a country which at that time was purchasing weapons from practically every Western country—but rather in allowing national territory to be used for activities designed for the proliferation of missiles.

In this regard, Cavallo reminds the current president of the Radical Civic Union's [UCR] National Defense Committee that there are international restrictions on the production of missiles and the promotion of activities linked to the production of missiles, adding that Argentine institutions participated in these activities.

Referring to Decree 1315, which was signed by Jaunarena, Cavallo notes that the decree cited the convenience of taking advantage of the possibility of locally conducting a large number of activities that, according to the respective contracts, were originally to be conducted abroad.

Minister Cavallo emphasizes this point by asserting that at that time intelligence reports from various Western countries noted that several foreign enterprises with which Argentina had signed contracts—the same ones that managed to close the deal with Iraq—had been banned from conducting these activities in their own countries.

Cavallo then says that the technological development was not autonomous, but a compensation mechanism that allowed Argentina to obtain technology for its foreign partners under the condition that the technology transfer be made from Argentine territory. According to the foreign minister, the technology transfer was meant for a country that was willing to pay a lot of money for it, meaning Iraq.

Cavallo tells Jaunarena: I cannot publish all the documents about this project because they are secret. Nonetheless, Cavallo sent the UCR leader a copy of Decree No. 1315, signed by Alfonsin and Jaunarena, adding that Jaunarena can decide whether or not to make it public.

The foreign minister then adds that as for Decree No. 604—signed by Alfonsin, former Defense Minister Raul Borras (deceased), former Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and former Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille—I have no problem in personally giving it to any of those who signed the letter Jaunarena sent through UCR leader Raul Alconada Sempe.

As you may notice, the letter continues, the decrees effectively approve, without reservations, several contracts and the formation of firms whose documents were not included in the files—as they were supposed to be—but remained in the Defense Ministry where you will be able to examine them if you request.

Cavallo recalls that Jaunarena met with former U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci and Caputo met with former U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz on several occasions.

According to what I was told, Cavallo states, during those meetings you received intelligence that you later conveyed to me, to former Defense Minister Humberto Romero, to Secretary of State James Baker, and to Defense Secretary Richard Cheney.

Therefore, says Cavallo, you have all the documents on the activities developed during your administration regarding the proliferation of Argentine missile technology, and you may realize that none of my comments contradict reality.

The minister explains: Naturally, I have not mentioned the names of people and companies or some other details that are part of the operation's secrecy. I believe, however, that this information could easily be given to a congressional investigative committee. Cavallo asserts to Jaunarena that in view of the issue's far-reaching repercussions, he has always been very cautious whenever he referred to it in the various countries he visited or whenever he answered foreign journalists' questions.

He then says: When I mentioned the issue on journalist Liliana Lopez Foresi's program, I wanted to show the connection I believed existed between the role of customer that Iraq played during the UCR administration and the instructions former Foreign Minister Caputo sent the Argentine representative to the UN Human Rights Committee. According to Cavallo, those instructions were that Argentina should abstain from condemning Iraq's use of chemical weapons against its Kurds.

Cavallo then refers to some comments in Jaunarena's letter stating that in February and March 1990—during the Justicialist administration—the Argentine representative to the UN Human Rights Committee refused to comply with the Western delegations' request that she not vote against visiting Iraq or at least, abstain from voting.

Cavallo denies that such a request was made and points out that on that occasion the UN Human Rights Committee was merely voting on a procedural issue—whether to visit Iraq at Iraq's invitation or as a result of an exclusive UN decision.

Cavallo explains that Ambassador Zelmira Regazzolli did not receive specific instructions from the Foreign Ministry at the time because the issue had been discussed openly. He added that she voted as Argentina has always voted—without taking into consideration what country is being voted on.

Before placing himself at the disposal of UCR government officials to discuss any matter they may feel is necessary, Cavallo emphasizes that the Argentine position on whether to answer the invitation of a country to be visited was amply discussed when the same principle was adopted during voting on Cuba while Caputo still headed the Foreign Ministry.

Iraqi Attacks on Civilians, Environment Criticized

PY2601124291 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1146 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 26 Jan (NA)—The 45 people who were being evacuated from Saudi Arabia to Rome will have to spend 48 hours in Cairo, Egypt, due to mechanical problems with the Argentine Air Force Hercules C-130 aircraft transporting the group. [passage omitted]

Last night the Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated its "firm repudiation" of the "new and unjustified Iraqi attack on Israeli civilians, which is an obvious sign of the Saddam Husayn regime's disrespect for life." The Foreign Ministry stated that "Iraq has no other alternative than to immediately comply with the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf conflict."

It also voiced its "concern" over the "environmental damage that Iraq is causing" by setting Kuwaiti oil wells on fire and spilling oil on Kuwaiti beaches.

Foreign Minister Di Tella Comments on Ships' Task

PY2601025091 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has confirmed that the Argentine ships operating in the Persian Gulf will extend their activities to logistic support tasks, which does not mean that they will take part in combat. He added that the ships may also escort hospital, repair, and supply ships.

The minister explained that the ships were restricted to trade embargo tasks against Iraq, but that they now have new instructions according to the resolution recently adopted by the National Congress.

Di Tella said the Argentine ships in the Gulf will be rotated and the corvette Spiro will soon be replaced. This is why the government has ordered a similar ship, the Rosales, to be prepared to sail within a month.

The destroyer Almirante Brown will be relieved by a similar ship which will sail some time in the future, he added. It has been learned that this ship will be the destroyer La Argentina.

Minister Di Tella announced that in the next 48 hours an Argentine Air Force Boeing 707 will be taking off to cooperate with the UN organization that provides humanitarian aid during catastrophes. This flight will be financed by the United Nations.

5,000 Protest

PY2501221491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Jan 91 p 1

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—[passage omitted] Nearly 5,000 demonstrators, meanwhile, gathered outside Congress to protest against the U.S.-led attack on Iraq and demand that the two Argentine naval vessels return from the Gulf.

Centre-left political parties, trade unions and human rights groups formed the majority of protesters.

There were no violent incidents during the protest "for peace" and the removal of allied forces from the Gulf although a US flag was ceremonially burned. Placards in the shape of white doves floated above the crowd while some of the protestors wore gas-masks. [passage omitted]

Soviet Minister Views Gulf, Baltic Situation

PY2501163891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1410 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Mendoza, 25 Jan (NA)—Soviet Defense Industry Minister Boris M. Belousov today reaffirmed that the Soviet Armed Forces "are not participating and will not participate" in the Persian Gulf war. Belousov said the Soviet Government has issued a statement to this effect. He noted, however, that "none of us want the war to spread."

Belousov arrived in Mendoza this morning at the head of a five-member delegation from his ministry on a 36-hour visit. He will try to arrange another sale of Soviet anti-hail rockets as well as possible joint undertakings for the production and purchase of local industrial equipment in the agricultural sector.

Belousov told reporters: "Every necessary political measure must be adopted to end the war" in the Middle East.

He said the Kremlin "has been acting energetically, doing whatever is necessary to end the armed confrontation as soon as possible."

Commenting on the serious situation in the Baltic countries where Soviet troops have caused several casualties, Belousov discussed the case of Lithuania specifically, noting that President Mikhail Gorbachev "is making every effort not to use military force" in the region.

Belousov said: "There seems to be some sort of allergy to laws [infeccion de leyes] across the Soviet Union, but the laws are there and must be enforced; this is what our government is trying to do."

Explosion at CLARIN Office; No Injuries

PY2601010091 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Excerpts] A bomb went off early this morning near the personnel entrance to the offices of the Buenos Aires morning newspaper CLARIN, causing minor damage but no casualties. CLARIN employees have reported that the bomb was not very powerful.

The bomb went off at 0010 this morning at 1800 Tacuary Street in the Federal Capital. The fire started by the bomb was put out by CLARIN employees as personnel from the Federal Police Explosives Brigade arrived at the site of the explosion. [passage omitted]

Personnel from the 16th Police Precinct are investigating the incident. CLARIN employees reported this morning that no pamphlets or papers identifying the individuals or organization responsible for the attack had been found.

Minister, Others Accused of YPF 'Irregularities'

PY2701220091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez, Undersecretary Luis Prol, state oil company YPF [Government Oil Deposits] trustee Jose Estenssoro and YPF Vice-President Wells Leon were all accused yesterday of "irregularities" and criminal negligence in connection with the transformation of YPF to limited company status.

The charges were made by Radical executive Emerito Gonzalez, a former public servant in the energy sector, who came to fame by bringing to light the so-called "Italo Case" connected with the sale of that company to the state.

In a deposition which Emerito Gonzalez has laid before national investigating prosecutor Ricardo Molinas, he claims that conflicts of interest existed for all the parties he has accused.

He alleges that, following the appointment of the United States McKinsey Company as advisers on the overhaul of YPF, the company was valued at four billion, rather than 20 billion dollars, due to false data being provided.

He further alleges that EEP [expansion unknown], one of the companies that won an auction for parts of YPF that were spun off, numbered Estenssoro as one of its principal shareholders, and that one of the initial letters in the company's name even stood for "Estenssoro."

Emerito Gonzalez goes on to claim that Prol was negligent in conducting his supervision of the quasi-privatization of YPF using advisers connected with private companies, such as Shell and Esso, that had claims of 200 million dollars against YPF.

The Economy Minister is accused of legalizing the change in status of YPF without paying due care to its valuation and of acting as if it were a company controlled by a single person, rather than the state.

National Prosecutor Molinas said yesterday that he would be requesting a statement from the Minister in response to these accusations, and that, by Monday at the latest, he would also be seeking the original documentation pertaining to the transformation of the state oil company.

Separately, Lower House Deputy Antonio Cassia has alleged that Estenssoro acted illegally in appointing McKinsey as adviser to YPF, while Estenssoro has replied that the appointment was made before he became trustee. Cassia has not made this accusation formal in a petition to the state prosecutor, and Molinas yesterday demanded that either he do so or withdraw his allegation.

Three Economy Ministry Under Secretaries Named

PY2501230691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] (NA)—Three posts of under secretary in the Economy Ministry were formally filled yesterday. The public finance post is taken by Carlos Miguel Tacchi, director of administrative and tax policy in the Martinez de Hoz administration between 1976 and 1981. The treasury job goes to Julio Cesar Aguilar, who was budget director until last December and held the public finance post temporarily this month before Tacchi's appointment. Saul Bouer, formerly treasury under secretary, is confirmed in the post he has been filling lately, namely under secretary for economic, administrative and technical coordination, which encompasses the responsibilities of the former public works ministry, which was abolished.

Espionage Suspects Released for 'Lack of Evidence'

PY2701231291 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 25 Jan (NA)—Bahia Blanca Federal Judge Luis Balaguer this afternoon ordered the release of

three men who were arrested early yesterday on charges of espionage "due to a lack of evidence."

Two of the men released are Argentine citizens; the third is a foreigner, but the report does not specify his citizenship.

Six Arrested for Role in Military Rebellion

PY2701221091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Jan 91 p 11

[Text] (NA)—The Federal Appeals Court yesterday confirmed the preventive arrest of six civilians accused of involvement in the Army uprising of December 3. The unprecedentedly quick decision of the court states that the preventive arrests ruled by Federal Judge Miguel Pons on Father Moises Jardin, his aides and members of the "Albatros" group "have a solid base and their basic principles cannot be modified."

Bolivia

Government Condemns Missile Attacks on Israel

PY2601012091 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The government released a communique today criticizing Iraq for its missile attacks against Israel and praising Israel for not responding to the military provocation.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Javier Murillo de la Rocha released the document, which sets Bolivia's position on this issue. The document points out that the government of President Jaime Paz Zamora strongly condemns the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel, which are affecting the Israeli civilian population, killing innocent people, and threatening to worsen the conflict in the area.

The document also praises the calm and sensible attitude of the Israeli Government in not responding to the unprovoked attacks. The government says the Iraqi missile attacks violate international law and points out that the military harassment is further worsening the situation with this unprovoked aggression by powerful military weapons against several Israeli cities. These attacks deserve our strongest condemnation because they affect the civilian population and kill innocent people, the document states.

Reporters accredited to Government House asked for the government's position on the continuing U.S. attacks on the Iraqi civilian population. President Jaime Paz was not able to answer this question precisely, but he reiterated that Bolivia supports the UN decision. President Paz preferred not to comment on the military actions being carried out in the Persian Gulf where the allied forces are carrying out thousands of raids on Iraq every day, as reported by the media.

Coca Production, Trafficking Declines in Chapare

PY2501115091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0049 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] La Paz, 24 Jan (EFE)—Police officials reported today that Bolivian drug traffickers operating in the central Chapare Region, where the majority of the coca plantations are located, are leaving that region for an unknown destination. The police believe that the Chapare Region, Cochabamba Department, has 80 percent of the plantations for coca—which is the raw material for making cocaine—and the majority of the labs for processing the drug.

Colonel Flavio Valdez, chief of the anti-drug struggle in Cochabamba, said today that cocaine processing and trafficking have dropped considerably in the Chapare Region since last December. He added that for unknown reasons the "more important" drug traffickers have left the region for another area of Bolivia's subtropical jungle which has not yet been identified.

Valdez said that from 17 to 20 January, officials seized 104 kg of cocaine base and destroyed ten factories with 20 maceration pits in the Chapare Region. He noted that the amount seized was "extremely small," taking into consideration that tons of cocaine base were recently seized in the so-called "red zone" where the police carried out the operation.

The majority of the 1,000 members of the Special Force for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking are stationed in Chapare. Valdez said that this force, with the support of DEA agents, is continuously harassing drug traffickers.

Bolivia is the world's second largest producer of coca and cocaine base after Peru.

3 Interior Ministry Under Secretaries Confirmed

PY2501025091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Three under secretaries in the Interior, Migration, and Justice Ministry have been confirmed in their posts. In a news conference, Minister Guillermo Capobianco Rivera said that the decision had been made in compliance with government orders.

Minister Capobianco announced the confirmation of the following under secretaries: Interior Under Secretary Raul Loayza, Justice Under Secretary Roger Pando, and Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Strategists Say Iraq Has 30,000 Scud Missiles

PY2701214091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2009 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Jan (TELAM-XINHUA)—Brazilian strategists have said that Iraq has 30,000 Scud missiles to

fight a long war against allied troops in the Persian Gulf. They added that the United States does not have enough "Patriot" missiles to last through a war of this duration.

This information, based on data obtained from Brazilian military attaches to Arab countries, was contained in an article published by the Brazilian newspaper CORREIO BRASILIENSE. Based on reports from attaches, Brazilian Armed Forces experts are well informed on Saddam Husayn's war capacity and plans.

The reports state that Iraq's strategy is to let the enemy take the initiative against Iraqi positions, thus weakening the power of allied forces, particularly air power and defense systems which the Baghdad troops already expected to face.

According to the Brazilian strategists, Iraq's tactic is to force the multinational troops to fight with its forces in the desert, and then to attack them with all its reserves, including the air force. They also said that it is a mistake to believe that Iraq has only 700 or 800 Scud missiles.

According to the Brazilian experts, the USSR, France, Germany, and Brazil have supplied most of Iraq's weapons. In addition to secret weapons which have not yet been employed, the USSR has given technical support to the Iraqi military for a long time.

Avribas States Gulf War Hurting Arms Industry

PY2601160091 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jan 91 p 23

[Text] Sao Paulo—According to Avibras [Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc.] Director President Joao Verde, the Persian Gulf war will worsen the already very bad situation of the nearly bankrupt Brazilian arms industry. Avibras is headquartered in Sao Jose dos Campos; only two years ago it was the largest manufacturer and exporter of war materiel in Brazil. According to Verde, this war affects the country through the loss of markets as well as through variations in oil prices because the country depends on oil imports.

Verde believes that the Gulf war will extend into 1992 and that Avibras' Astros-2 multiple rocket launcher will perform in an outstanding manner because of its technological superiority and sophistication, which will be an asset for future business. About a year ago Avibras sought an arrangement with creditors on paying a debt of $458 million with Brazilian and international suppliers.

Verde said the allied armies are getting rid of—at disgraceful prices—the stock of weapons that have become obsolete with the end of the cold war and the political changes in East Europe. According to Verde, European stocks are currently being made available at large discounts. In addition to that, the allied armies now have political control of the Middle East and can impose import conditions on countries interested in setting up defense systems. Verde said this will displace Third World countries such as Brazil in the market because we can only negotiate the sale of our weapons at market prices.

Claims 'No Contacts' With Iraq

PY2601003491 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Report by Alexander Garcia from Brasilia]

[Text] Israel wants to be remembered in Caracas on 28 January when 11 countries from this region will meet.

Avibras [Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc.] has explained to the Brazilian Government that it maintains no contacts with the Iraqi Government. The Brazilian Government accepted this explanation. Minister Francisco Rezek told me that Avibras would be severely punished if it renders technical assistance to Iraq because the Brazilian Government is concerned with enforcing the U.N.-imposed embargo on that country.

Technician Denied Travel to Iraq

PY2501223091 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The Brazilian Government will not allow Avibras [Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc.] to send a technician to Iraq to give technical assistance to Saddam Husayn's army.

According to today's newspapers, an Avibras technician was to go to Baghdad next month to explain how to operate and service the Astros-2 multiple rocket launcher which this private enterprise sold to the Iraqi Government.

Itamaraty Spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel asserted that the Brazilian Government would regard this decision as very serious and would not hesitate to use all legal means to prevent it from materializing.

[Begin Pimentel recording] The government is closely following this issue. Should this information be confirmed, the government will resort to all legal means to prevent it from taking place. [end recording]

Pimentel also reported that three Brazilian citizens left Riyadh this morning on board an Argentine aircraft bound for Rio de Janeiro. Soccer players playing for Saudi Arabian teams were not released by their clubs and refrained from boarding the plane. Another six Brazilian citizens are scheduled to leave Qatar for Brazil tomorrow.

Rezek Departs for Rio Group Meeting in Caracas

PY2701232091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2204 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Jan (EFE)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek left for Caracas today to attend a meeting of the Rio Group which begins tomorrow.

Rezek and his Rio Group counterparts at the meeting will analyze the effects the Persian Gulf war could have on Latin America.

The special meeting of the foreign ministers of the 11 countries that make up the Rio Group has been summoned by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Perez did not succeed, however, in convincing the presidents of the 11 countries to attend.

Brazilian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel emphasized today that there is little the Latin American countries can do to solve the Gulf conflict. He said all they can do is to persist in calling for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

He pointed out that Brazil will not present any proposal in Caracas to offset the consequences the war may have on the economies of Latin American.

The Rio Group is made up of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Caramuru Appointed Economy Ministry Chief of Staff

PY2601024291 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Summary] Diplomat Marcos Caramuru, former Economy Ministry social communications adviser, has been appointed Economy Ministry chief of staff.

Import Tax on Chemicals Eliminated for One Year

PY2601202091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The import tax for 110 chemical and petrochemical products has been eliminated for a one-year period, according to a resolution issued by the Economy Ministry.

The tax percentage for these products varied between 20 and 30 percent. The measure is an effort to control internal prices and to stimulate competition in Brazil's chemical industry.

Chile

Reports on Iraqi Intelligence Officer Investigated

PY2801144491 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The Carabineros have denied that Iraqi citizens in northern Chile have been arrested, as was reported in the past few hours. The Carabineros stated that the origin of the rumor is being investigated as well as whether it is true that two Iraqi citizens, reportedly identified as Nabil Nasir Kahlili and (Ed Kaur Faridah), have entered the country.

In the past few hours, media sectors in Loa Region have reported that two Iraqi citizens, one of whom is allegedly a member of the Iraqi intelligence service, have entered the country with the objective of attacking mining enterprises in which U.S. enterprises have invested.

The same report states that the two Iraqi citizens were discovered by El Litio Mining Company in Calama. The Loa governor's office and the police have denied the report, however, and the origin of the rumor continues to be investigated.

Krauss Claims 'No Political Prisoners' in Chile

PY2601204591 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has said that the government has categorically asserted that there are no political prisoners in this country. Krauss made these comments after a requiem mass at the NCO School for two murdered Carabineros.

Asked whether the murderers of the two Carabineros could be classified and tried as political prisoners, the interior minister flatly said: We have not said that in this country. Well, I will more accurately and literally repeat the minister's sentence: No, we have categorically said that there are no political prisoners in this country.

Krauss added that the murder of Carabineros Carlos Araya and Manuel Miranda disturbs the peace because it is not normal to experience this type of crime in a country living in democracy. The minister pointed out that there is some information on the attack, although not all the details have been made entirely clear.

Regarding the fact that the Lautaro Youth Movement has claimed responsibility for the murders, Krauss said that this was a reasonable confession since these sectors have recently been involved in this type of action.

Irregularities Found in Checks for Pinochet's Son

PY2601163091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn, president of the Army Checks Committee, has explained that the final report approved by the Chamber of Deputies yesterday establishes several illegal aspects of the transaction in which Augusto Pinochet Hiriat received 1 billion pesos from the Army. He added that documents confirm that General Pinochet Ugarte knew about the transaction.

The discussion about the investigative committee report on Army checks made out to Augusto Pinochet Hiriat was held at the Chamber of Deputies plenum and lasted until 0300. More than 30 deputies took part in the discussion. All of them agreed that it is difficult to reach an unanimous opinion on the circumstances of the purchase of the PSP [expansion unknown] rifle manufacturing company, for which the Army paid Augusto Pinochet Hiriat almost 1 billion pesos. It has been made clear that General Pinochet's son was not acting on behalf of third parties when he received the huge sum, as he stated when trying to justify his part in the sale. This

fact, among others, confirms that there were several irregularities in the transaction. What the committee members tried to clarify today was whether Army Commander-in-Chief General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte knew about the transaction. [passage omitted]

The Army checks case is not over. Now it is up to the National Comptroller, the State Defense Council, or any Chilean citizen to start legal action—based on the data gathered by the Chamber of Deputies committee—against the people allegedly responsible for this transaction.

Minister Comments on Report

PY2601213091 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Report from Government House]

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has categorically denied that the government negotiated the investigation into the case of the checks issued by the Army to General Pinochet's son. The minister said that such an assertion is unrealistic.

[Begin Krauss recording] I think that such an assertion is unrealistic. The action carried out by the congressional investigative committee—which I think elevated the skill of this Congress since it has been very serious work—has not arrived at any conclusion. The congressional investigative committee has given a complete report on the case to an auditing organization, the national comptroller's office. Therefore it is completely unrealistic to say that there have been negotiations. [end recording]

Asked about the contents of this report, which has allegedly disappointed those who expected more drastic findings, the interior minister said that it is better that the whole process has been carefully evaluated. He said the document contains a lot of information as the result of a serious investigation. It has been positive work by the Chamber of Deputies which noted that the investigation represents a remarkable contribution. Krauss said the congressional committee must analyze whether Gen. Pinochet knew about the illegal financial operations. Krauss also noted that the final report has yet not been published.

Bomb Damages Mormon Church in Terrorist Atack

PY2601173691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] A terrorist attack on a Mormon Church in Copiapo resulted in a great deal of property damage. The bomb exploded in the entrance of a Mormon church on the corner of Manuel Rodriguez and Mendez Streets in Copiapo. The bomb, which contained 300 grams of ammonia gelatin and 150 grams of Iremite that were set off by fire [as heard], exploded in the main entrance of the church and damaged nearby rooms, breaking all windows and doors.

Lautaro Group Terrorists Ambush Two Carabineros

PY2401213091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] The extremist Lautaro Popular and Rebel Forces movement has claimed responsibility for the bloody attacks against and deaths of two Carabineros which occurred this morning on Independence Avenue. The Carabineros have been identified as Carlos Ricardo Araya Cid, 24, and his partner, Manuel Miranda Barrera, 22. The two men were about to begin their watch at a State Bank branch at 3642 Independence Avenue when a group of five gunmen ambushed them.

The extremists riddled the policemen with bullets after waiting in the vicinity for the Carabineros to show up, get off the bus, and cross the street toward the bank office.

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] They were shot as soon as they crossed the street. The attackers then got out of the car, still firing. They stripped them of their weapons, radio, and submachine gun. They kept firing at them while they were on the ground. [end recording]

The commandos that ambushed the policemen left in a Nissan Stanza with license plate EE-8457, which had been stolen from the area of Rafael Fraule and Castillo Velasco Streets on 21 January.

Three of the five gunmen hid their weapons under newspapers and waited for the Carabineros on a wooden bench just in front of the bank. A fourth gang member waited in the car while the fifth watched from a distance and then ran to the scene to make sure the policemen were dead. The commandos abandoned their escape vehicle near Rio Grande do Sul in Copacabana, some 20 blocks from the scene of the crime.

Carlos Ricardo Araya was shot nine times in the chest and neck and he died minutes after arriving at Davile Hospital. His partner, Manuel Miranda Barrera, died 30 minutes later at Jose Joaquin Aguirre Hospital.

The director of the emergency room told Radio Chilena:

[Begin unidentified director recording] The patient arrived here shortly after the attack and was taken to the cardiac emergency room. [words indistinct] without pulse, blood pressure, and without breathing. We immediately applied resuscitation procedures [passage indistinct] but everything failed. [end recording]

The Carabineros who were killed in this cowardly attack were members of the Fifth Precinct in Conchali. They were regularly assigned to guard banks in the Independence area.

The extremist Lautaro Popular and Rebel Forces group claimed responsibility one hour after the attack through a telephone call to the UPI agency. The communique, which was read by an unidentified man, says:

At 0800 today at Independence Avenue and Esmeralda Street the Lautaro Popular and Rebel Forces executed two Carabineros for the following reasons:

1. To strongly condemn the farce of the Truth Commission and the shameless process of impunity.

2. To give a sharp response to the Carabineros of Chile for their arrogant and abusive attitude and the torture of our people.

The Carabineros Metropolitan Zone Command released a communique condemning the incident. The communique says that after the crime was committed the criminals escaped in a car with a portable radio, an Uzi submachine gun, and a .38-caliber revolver they stole from the murdered policemen. The communique adds that both policemen have been entered in the honor roll of the 848 martyrs who have fallen while defending and protecting the population.

Trade Surplus of $1.26 Billion Reported in 1990

PY2401121891 Madrid EFE in English
0814 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Santiago, Jan 24 (EFE)—Chile posted a $1.26 billion trade surplus last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Central Bank.

In a statement late Wednesday, the bank said exports in 1990 amounted to $8.33 billion while the country imported goods for a value of nearly $7.07 billion.

The bank said exports grew by 3.1 per cent while imports had increased by 8.7 per cent, far below the 34.5 per cent rise registered in 1989.

Copper, which made up 49.8 per cent of total exports in 1989, represented 45.7 per cent of exports last year.

The statement added that Chile's foreign reserves stood at an unprecedented $5.38 billion as of mid-January.

* Passage of 'Cumplido Laws'; Court Reaction

* Passed Legislation Detailed

91SM0148A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
21 Dec 90 p C5

[Text] Valparaiso—Yesterday Congress passed a bill modifying various legal texts for the purpose of better guaranteeing civil rights as contained in the so-called Cumplido Laws. The bill's passage followed approval by the Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Joint Commission's proposals, thereby overcoming differences arising in the two chambers over the measure.

The Commission's proposals were first debated and passed by a unanimous vote of Chamber of Deputies members who were present (72). The exception was Deputy Juan Pablo Letelier, who abstained (because of his connection with one of the articles). They were passed on to the Senate immediately thereafter and passed unanimously by the senators present (29).

With approval by both branches of Congress, the bill concerning individual rights, which was first introduced in March, would next be sent on to the president for his promulgation or veto.

Among the central aspects of the bill passed yesterday by Congress are permanent provisions governing the present and future and other temporary provisions that would apply to events occurring previous to 11 March 1990.

The measure does not reduce penalties. It modifies the competence of military tribunals, expands individual rights, and establishes standards applying to crimes committed before 11 March of this year and aimed at speeding up trials.

Concerning permanent legislation, provisions generally maintain existing penalties applying to crimes covered by the Government Security and Arms Control Laws, which single out three: kidnapping for the purpose of an attempt on government security; the formation of combat groups; and bringing weapons into the country. In these cases, there is no reduction in penalties.

They also expand the rights of persons on trial or subject to trial, putting an end to solitary confinement, keeping prisoners incommunicado for over ten days, and the requirement that a medical examination be administered to prisoners when the latter are in the custody of security agencies.

The provisions also contemplate changes in the competency of military tribunals in the case of crimes committed by civilians and covered by special laws (State Security, Weapons Control), which become the province of an Appeals Court judge.

Insofar as temporary provisions are concerned, standards have been established in order to speed up trials and the sentencing of defendants tried for acts committed previous to 11 March 1990. To that effect, certain crimes covered by the special laws and the Code of Military Justice will, when over a year has passed since initiation of the indictment, become the competence of an Appeals Court judge and the hierarchical court will be the respective Appeals Court, which represents a change in competence from the military tribunals to the regular courts.

The temporary provisions also state that if trials are underway, the military court has a specified amount of time to rule and that if it does not do so, the case is then transferred to the competence of a regular court under a visiting court judge.

As far as the Code of Military Justice is concerned, the respective provisions maintain the makeup of the Military Courts, but with the immobility of their military members for three years.

Concerning temporary provisions aimed at speeding up trials and the prompt release of so-called political prisoners, Deputy Jorge Molina Valdivieso maintained that "the so-called 'Framework Agreement' aimed at guaranteeing political prisoners a fair trial, was rejected, thereby openning the way to a solution transferring to the president all responsibility for granting pardons and giving Congress the possibility of granting amnesty or pardons."

He added that from the political standpoint, the cost of the situation would be born by the president rather than Parliament, as envisioned by laws previously introduced into the Chamber of Deputies.

Regarding special procedures, he said there would be a reduction in the sentencing periods of "political prisoners," after which they might be granted a provisional release.

He added that one provision had been incorporated which he labeled as "highly delicate," one which, in his opinion, the president should reflect upon. The measure in question is the temporary dismissal of those tried and not sentenced for five years.

* Legislative Accord Outlined

91SM0148B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 Dec 90 p C1

[Excerpt] National Renewal (RN) President Andres Allamand yesterday submitted to the president a bill that would reform Article 9 of the National Constitution, empowering the chief of state to pardon persons convicted of terrorist crimes and allowing Congress to pass amnesty laws and courts of justice to grant provisional releases.

This proposed constitutional amendment is contained in a legislative political agreement signed on 4 December by the National Renewal and the Coalition of Parties for Democracy to facilitate passage of various legal norms on procedural law and refinements in legislation on domestic security, antiterrorism, and arms control, measures generically labeled as the "Cumplido Laws."

Allamand said the reform he proposes should contribute to reconciliation and harmony among Chileans. He stated that it presumes a special resolution, case by case, of the various trials arising out of the commission of terrorist crimes and constitutes an act of trust in the good judgment and wisdom of President Aylwin.

He noted that he is not proposing amnesty for persons responsible for human rights violations.

In a letter delivered to the chief of state along with the text of the proposed reform, the RN leader recalls that the agreement signed with the Coalition on 4 December rejects reductions in penalties originally proposed by the Executive, refines the text of the law on terrorist conduct, modifies the competence of certain courts, and establishes standards guaranteeing due process.

Orientation

In that sense, he explained that the RN's proposed modification of Article 9 of the constitution is aimed at temporarily making provisions governing the pardon more flexible. Nevertheless, he specified that the inadmissibility of the pardon in the case of persons convicted of crimes of terrorism should be maintained permanently, with the sole exception of cases involving the death penalty, in which it would be commuted to life imprisonment.

"The National Renewal believes it is indispensable to move resolutely down the path of reconciliation and national harmony, leaving behind us serious problems arising out of a political period that is now past," he said.

For that purpose, Allamand said, it is necessary to distinguish between events in the past, present, and future and assume that situations from the past must be faced with special mechanisms and approaches.

"For these reasons," he emphasized, "the National Renewal rejected the legislative solutions initially sponsored by the government, solutions which in our opinion affected permanent legislation in matters of procedural and criminal law and weakened the system of protecting society and individuals by sending erroneous signals of permissiveness regarding crime and subsequently introducing criteria of vacillation in the work of law enforcement agencies."

The RN leader stressed that his party has not accepted and does not accept the generic label of "political prisoners" so commonly used. "It is equivocal and has connotations not applicable to the vast majority of those tried and convicted to whom it usually refers. It may also be a dangerous precedent for the democratic future to sanction such a label for those who commit common crimes for political motives," he emphasized.

However, he recognized that some of the persons thus labeled have had to put up with serious irregularities in the judicial processes to which they have been subjected or been detained for longer periods than their final sentences would have entailed.

"The National Renewal is confident that the chief of state will make use of the power granted him with the wisdom and sense of justice required and which his background as a man of law leads us to expect. It hopes he will consider the nature and gravity of the acts committed, distinguishing between crimes of murder, aggravated assault, kidnappings, and theft, as the people expect their authorities to do on such issues, and that he will also consider precedents, as well as possible consequences in terms of public order and security due to the indiscriminate and political use of this temporary power," the opposition politician noted.

Finally, Allamand said that modification of Article 9 of the constitution will make it possible to adapt the

Chilean legal system to international treaties ratifying the right to pardon, amnesty, and the commutation of penalties. [passage omitted]

* Court Opposition Noted

91SM0148C Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Dec 90 pp A1, A19

[Text] Valparaiso—The Supreme Court has stated its opposition to the transfer of trials being handled by military courts and which, according to a bill modifying various pieces of legislation aimed at better safeguarding individual rights, should fall within the jurisdiction of the regular courts. In question are trials involving so-called "political prisoners."

The High Court has ruled that far from achieving the goal pursued—expediting such cases—such a measure would only delay the trials "because the new judges, Appeals Court justices, would then have to embark upon the study and actual handling of such cases in addition to their regular court work."

The Supreme Court states that the proposed reform, as contained in the last of the so-called "Cumplido Laws" and passed by Congress yesterday, "would not produce the desired result."

These and other opinions of the High Court are contained in its response to proposals of the Joint Commission of senators and deputies whose task it is to solve differences arising between the two chambers during debate on the bill in question.

The Joint Commission was required to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court in compliance with Article 74 of the constitution, which states that the organic law on the organization and powers of the courts may only be modified if the Supreme Court is first consulted.

Matters on which the Supreme Court justices ruled refer only to two articles of the bill: No 7, which is permanent, and another of a temporary nature.

The permanent provision would modify the Organic Court Code, proposing that a judge would be competent in crimes within the jurisdiction of Chilean courts when they might affect the country's international relations with another nation.

Application of this article will in practice make it possible for trials involving the forgery of passports (Letelier case) to be transferred from the military tribunal to the regular courts and turned over to a Supreme Court justice.

The temporary article therefore allows trials involving special laws affecting so-called "political prisoners" to be handled by Appeals Court judges.

The Supreme Court ruling was sent by fax and its contents were reported to both chambers yesterday before their members voted on and passed the Joint Commission report.

By way of a general observation, the Supreme Court response points up the unsuitability of having the Joint Commission memorandum sent up at 1930 hours last Friday, inasmuch as it learned of it no sooner than 1400 hours on Monday, "a situation further aggravated by the fact that the memorandum was accompanied by a fax received at 1147 hours that same day (Wednesday, the 19th).

Passport Case

The Supreme Court responded first to the consultation on the new No 2 of Article 52 of the Organic Court Code that would place within the primary jurisdiction of a Supreme Court justice "crimes now within the jurisdiction of Chilean courts when they might affect the country's international relations with another nation."

This situation, the document states, is already contemplated in Article 560, No 1, of the legal code in question, noting, as one of the cases in which an Appeals Court judge is to be appointed as judge of the first instance—the old requirement—that it was applied in cases such as the incident involving Chilean citizens and crew members of the American "Baltimore" and to problems with the Alsop Company, also American.

"No reasons are given that might justify the proposed modification in the competence of the regular courts," the Supreme Court states, deeming it "unnecessary" to introduce the reform of Article 52 of the code in question.

It suggests that cases described in the reform be handled and resolved by the courts mentioned in Article 560 of the code.

Dissenting Votes

The opinion was handed down with dissenting votes by Justices Rafael Retamal and Servando Jordan, who voted to accept the proposed reform because the measure establishes a standard of competency for a single-judge court, while Article 560 of the Organic Court Code has to do with the relationship between the economic and disciplinary powers of higher courts of justice.

It is also noted that Judge Enrique Correa rejected the same reform because, in his opinion, the modification, "constitutes an absolute rule of competence that cannot be confused with powers held by the Supreme Court and the Appeals Court to appoint visiting judges for cases it deems suitable and particularly cases stipulated by Article 560."

Judge Hernan Alvarez was of the opinion that the modification which the Joint Commission proposed in Article 52 of the Organic Court Code (which he did not accept) be made in Article 50 of that same code so that the same matter might be turned over to an Appeals Court judge.

Change in Competence

Concerning the first temporary provision of the bill, the Supreme Court ruled that "there is no discernable reason justifying the transfer of trials now being handled by military tribunals which, according to the bill being debated, would fall within the jurisdiction of the regular courts."

It stated that "far from achieving the goal pursued: which is expediting such cases, it would mean a delay in proceedings, inasmuch as the new judges, who are Appeals Court magistrates, would have to embark upon the study and actual handling of such cases in addition to their regular court work."

He added that the reform proposed would not produce the desired result and that, on the contrary, "it would be detrimental to the normal operations of Appeals Courts."

The Supreme Court said that according to figures available, over 4,000 trials should be turned over to the regular courts throughout the country and that of these, some 3,500 would be transferred to the Santiago Appeals Court.

He then advanced the argument that if only trials before the military courts for over a year in the indictment phase go to a regular judge, the remaining cases will remain before the military tribunals. "This is not in keeping with general rules regulating the competence of courts of justice because the same crimes would continue to be handled with a different type judge based solely on the fact that the one year indictment requirement is applied only to some cases and not others."

The report concludes that "it does not seem advisable" for the Supreme Court to be the body appointing judges, "inasmuch as the Appeals Courts would do it without difficulty" and that the same observation is valid for cases in the plenary phase.

Colombia

Police Reportedly Advised of Escobar's Whereabouts

PA2601023491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0128 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Bogota, 25 Jan (EFE)—An anonymous caller, reportedly speaking on behalf of the up to now unknown "Luis Carlos Galan Movement" told EFE today in Bogota that they had given the police the location of the "hideout of Pablo Escobar," the head of the Medellin Cartel.

At approximately 1925 (0025 GMT) a call was received at the EFE offices. A recording was played announcing "to the world the appearance of the Luis Carlos Galan Movement. The movement today collaborated with the Colombian authorities by informing them of Pablo Escobar's hideout."

The recording was preceded by an excerpt of a speech delivered by Luis Carlos Galan, liberal politician assassinated in August 1989 while participating in a presidential campaign.

The anonymous caller also said that "it is time that justice is made and an end put to the crimes committed by the Antioquia Mafia" (in reference to the drug traffickers who live in Antioquia Department.) The caller added that drug traffickers Pablo Escobar and Juan David Ochoa are their main targets.

"We have irrefutable proof that Juan David is linked to the kidnapping of journalists. In the next few days we will send video of this proof to a Latin American newspaper," the caller said.

The recording ends by saying that "if anything should happen to a policeman or journalist, we will execute Fabio, Abel [Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez] and Otto [Ottoniel Gonzalez Franco]."

The Colombian police today launched an operation against a farm near the town of Copacabana, Antioquia Department, where they had hoped to find Escobar.

Escobar, however, was not at the farm. Instead the police found two journalists who had been kidnapped by the drug trafficking mafia in August. One of the journalists found at the farm was Diana Turbay, daughter of former Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay. Diana Turbay died as a result of the police action. Cameraman Richard Becerra was freed during this action.

Three other journalists—Francisco Santos, Maruja Pachon, and Beatriz de Guerrero—and Marina de Montoya, sister of the secretary general of the presidency, remain in the hands of the drug traffickers.

Killing of Journalist Condemned

PA2601010591 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The national government, through Mauricio Vargas, the communications adviser, has stated its position regarding today's incident. Here is the report:

[Begin Vargas recording] The national government deeply regrets and firmly condemns the cowardly murder of newspaperwoman Diana Turbay de Uribe by her kidnappers on a farm in the municipality of Copacabana, Antioquia.

During the course of an operation by the elite corps of the national police, the criminals who were holding Diana Turbay de Uribe and cameraman Richard Becerra ordered them to run and then shot them in the back. Diana, director of the HOY POR HOY magazine, was shot three times. She died as a result of those wounds.

Despite the efforts by doctors at the Medellin General Hospital, where she was rushed by a police helicopter, she died in the afternoon.

The national government understands the feelings of sadness and indignation of all Colombians, and expresses its solidarity to the Turbay Quintero family and friends.

The government has implemented a policy so that people who want to confesss their crimes and receive a reduced sentence can do so. [end recording]

'Extraditables' Vow To Renew Violence

PA2601021191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0038 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Medellin (Colombia), 25 Jan (EFE)—Following a "unilateral truce" declared by them in July 1990, "The Extraditables"—the armed branch of the drug trafficking Medellin Cartel—announced today that they would take reprisals and renew their acts of violence against those who are in favor of extradition.

The Colombian authorities are trying to figure out if the communique delivered to the media with this announcement was drafted before or after the police action in which Diana Turbay, daughter of former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, was mortally wounded. Diana Turbay, who died of her wounds, had been kidnapped on 30 August 1990 by "The Extraditables."

"The Extraditables" announced: "We will renew our military operations because the laws and decrees that permit the extradition of drug traffickers to other countries are in effect, and because of the executions, assassinations, and massacres by the national police."

The message from the drug traffickers wanted by U.S. courts adds: "The tortures, abductions, assassinations, and massacres continue. Arrest warrants are viewed by the hired killers of the national police as orders to kill."

Apparently alluding to recent actions by elite police corps in recent days, the communique adds: "We will execute two of the hostages in reprisal." [passage omitted]

Guerrilla Attacks Cause $25 Million in Oil Losses

PA2701151791 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 22 Jan 91, p21

[Report by Alcibiades Bottia]

[Text] The guerrillas have launched their fiercest attacks ever against oil installations this year.

Guerrillas have carried out 14 attacks on oil installations, practically paralyzing crude exports. Oil is now economically and strategically vital because of the Persian Gulf war. In the first 21 days of 1991, Colombia has failed to export one million barrels of crude that would have sold for $25 million on the international market.

The 14 attacks carried out by the guerrillas on oil pipelines and other oil installations have not only paralyzed this important sector of national development, but have also endangered the construction of basic facilities for the future of the oil industry.

In the case of the building of the "Colombia Pipeline" from Vasconia in the Middle Magdalena area to the port of embarcation, the contractor—a French firm with many years service in Colombia—is not sure if it can continue its work in view of the great losses it has suffered from attacks on its installations. These losses have been estimated at 10 billion pesos.

The profits received by Colombia because of the Persian Gulf war have been estimated by ECOPETROL [Colomiban Petroleum Enterprise] at $250 million. Most of these profits are being offset by the guerrillas who have attacked oil and transportation facilities to protest the government's actions against the armed groups who are trying to control several areas of the country.

Colombia had been exporting 220,000 barrels daily, 65,000 of which was fuel oil. The rest was crude—similar to that produced in the eastern United States—which today sells for $20 a barrel.

Despite the rise in terrorist actions by the ELN [Army of National Liberation] and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], ECOPETROL President Andres Restrepo has said that the government will continue its exploration program as scheduled to meet the country's needs in coming years, regardless of the difficulties being faced by private and government institutions engaged in the oil industry.

Restrepo stressed that the country's oil policy cannot be subject to domestic and foreign events.

Besides the economic losses, Colombians do not fully realize the unfortunate negative effects on ecology. Some people living in the area can no longer fish or farm, and there are also health hazards because of the tremendous damage caused by the oil spills. Birth defects have often been noted in children born in these areas.

The habitat of the plants and animal species living in the area is being substantially changed. In view of these adverse situations, animals who maintain the ecological balance in the area are being forced to emigrate or die.

FARC Attacks Oil Installations in Antioquia

PA2501125591 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1224 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] guerrillas early this morning blew up an Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] station in the Middle Magdalena area. The rebels detonated dynamite charges in the oil exploitation field in Casave, Yondo Municipality, Antioquia Department, close to Barrancabermeja.

The guerrillas blew up a container that housed the computer controls of the oil wells in the El Condor plant in Casave. They also blew up heavy machinery owned by

the (Inqueser) Company, a contract company working for Ecopetrol that specializes in oil well maintenance.

Damage is heavy but it has not been evaluated yet, while the damage done to (Inqueser) is estimated at 800 million pesos. Initially, the FARC is being held responsible for the attack as it uses in the Middle Magdalena area methods quite similar to the ELN [Army of National Liberation].

Ecopetrol experts are now trying to initiate repair work in order to reestablish the production of the oil wells as soon as possible.

ELN Attack Causes Oil Spill in North Santander

PA2501230191 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] At this moment a huge oil spill is moving along the Tonchala and Tabira creeks toward Rio Zulia in northern Santander. The oil spill is the result of an attack by the Army of National Liberation [ELN] against the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. A dynamite explosion at km 257 of the pipeline caused 15,000 barrels of oil to spill and a 20-km-long streak.

The two creeks supply water for bean, rice, corn, and tomato crops which could be lost. Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol] personnel are working to repair the pipeline and to control the spill. This is the 10th attack against the pipeline thus far this year.

Revolutionary Workers' Party Turns in Weapons

PA2501194091 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] A definitive farewell to arms was given today by members of the PRT [Revolutionary Workers' Party] to the arms which they had during 10 years of struggle and which helped them exert great pressure on the social sectors of the Atlantic Coast.

The weapons will be packed in a special noncontaminant container, wrapped in the national flag, and placed aboard a ship bound for Cartagena. After going 50 miles out to sea, the weapons will be dumped at an undetermined site, thus marking the end of a rebel group. The PRT had defected from the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] and acted as the M-19 in the famous America Battalion. It will now rejoin civilian life to enjoy the benefits of democracy.

[Begin recording] [PRT leader Valentin Gonzalez] It signifies a contribution by the PRT to national reconciliation and expresses a willingness to face the challenges posed by obeying the country's laws and engaging in politics.

[Peace adviser Jesus Antonio Bejarano] This coming Sunday we will establish a normalization council in Sincelejo in order to form all the organizations that will be in charge of reintegration. Thereafter, our task will be to ensure that the commitments made to join the country's political and economic life are thoroughly fulfilled. [end recording]

This special event will be attended by a presidential commission and some members of the National Constituent Assembly members. Governor of Bolivar David Turbay and Governor of Sucre Luz Marina Ojeda will also attend, as will the mayors from the regions where the PRT had exerted influence.

Army of National Liberation Releases Hostage

PA2601202791 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Margarita Silva Colmenares de Uribe, former mayor of Cucuta municipality, was released on 25 January. She was released in the city of Bucamaranga, unharmed, after being held captive by the Army of National Liberation for a period of four months. [passage omitted]

Ecuador

Increase in Transportation Fares Announced

PA2701034091 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The National Transit Council issued today a press bulletin announcing that passenger fares have been increased. According to the bulletin, the increase is based on a study conducted by the council's technical commission as requested by the transportation sector which has argued that operating expenses have increased.

Bus fares during the day will be 50 sucres. On Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays the fare will be 60 sucres. Students will pay 30 sucres. School children under 12 years of age will pay 12 sucres.

Taxi fares will be as follows: 30 sucres initial rate, and 130 sucres per kilometer. Passengers will pay 33 sucres for every minute of waiting, and the minimum fare will be 325 sucres.

Inter-provincial passenger fares are hereby increased by 30 percent over the fare established on 21 July 1990. Passenger fare lists have been distributed to all provincial transit councils, including the Guayas Transit Commission.

The bulletin says that the urban transportation sector is duty bound to provide the citizens with service during the day as well as at night. It also adds that only vehicles which meet security and comfort requirements will be allowed to operate.

Paraguay

Government Criticizes Iraqi Attacks on Israel

PY2701213091 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 27 Jan 91 p 9

["Text" of communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Asuncion on 26 January]

[Text] "The Ministry of Foreign Relations conveys the Paraguayan Government's repudiation of the Iraqi attacks against a nonbelligerent country like Israel in the Persian Gulf war and expresses its solidarity with the people of Israel.

"As a member country of the United Nations, Paraguay also conveys its support for the UN Security Council resolutions condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. These resolutions are designed to restore the situation as it existed before 2 August 1990.

"Paraguay laments both the loss of human lives and the negative consequences stemming from the conflict, and harbors the hope that peace will be restored soon."

Leftist Parties Demonstrate at U.S. Embassy

PY2601004091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 4

[Text] Several leftist social and political organizations demonstrated last night in front of the U.S. Embassy to protest U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf war.

The demonstration could not be staged on the embassy sidewalk because police officers armed with shields, electric truncheons, and gas masks cordoned off the area and would not allow anyone to stand in that area. Even the people who usually wait for buses in front of the embassy were forced to walk to the bus stop at the intersection of Bernardino Caballero and Mariscal Lopez Avenues.

The sponsors of the demonstrations asked the police the reason for banning the demonstration on the embassy sidewalk. The policemen replied that the demonstration could be held on the opposite sidewalk.

After this incident, demonstrators chanted slogans against the U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf and against Yankee imperialism.

Several speakers harshly criticized U.S. President George Bush and Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez, whom they charged with "being subordinated to U.S. interests."

The demonstration was sponsored by the Workers Party, the Paraguayan Free Fatherland Movement, the Popular Democratic Party, the Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia Paraguayan Liberation Movement, and the Revolutionary Circle.

'Illegal' Passports Hint at Iraqi Terrorists

PY2501135691 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 9

[Text] Chief of Police General Francisco Sanchez has warned that Iraqi sympathizers have threatened allied interests in our country. Sanchez said the police will continue to reinforce security at embassies, temples, and enterprises belonging to countries participating in the Persian Gulf war.

The chief of police discussed the issue with President Andres Rodriguez, and then announced that police are maintaining very strict control of foreigners at the country's entry and exit points, particularly if they are of Arab origin.

Asked if the police have detected irregularities in our country, General Sanchez said there were unconfirmed reports of incidents. "We are investigating. May God forbid any incident," Sanchez said.

The chief of police confirmed that on 23 January police found an individual carrying one of the illegal passports that were ordered out of circulation by the Foreign Ministry. Sanchez said they are coordinating their work with the Foreign Ministry. "We seized one of those passports yesterday. The public relations office will give you the details."

Sanchez said that the illegal passports are no longer valid and are easy to detect. "It will be easy if these individuals [not further identified] carry those passports because we can then seize them and send them to the Foreign Ministry," Sanchez added.

The chief of police said that the illegal passports were issued in South Africa and will soon expire; they will be seized as they come up for renewal.

Asked if he was aware of any threats against individuals or premises in the country, Sanchez said: "We have received some anonymous calls, nothing else."

Foreign Minister Departs for Rio Group Meeting

PY2801134091 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 28 Jan 91 p 10

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, accompanied by Mario Romanach, general manager of Petropar [Paraguayan Petroleum, Inc.], left for Caracas on 27 January to participate in a Rio Group meeting.

At the airport, the foreign minister said he is not taking an official position or policy with him because only opinions and concerns will be exchanged. He also said that the meeting could discuss ways that countries such as Venezuela and Mexico, which are oil-exporting countries, can help resolve the energy problem.

If needed these two countries could, in a crisis situation, provide oil to Rio Group countries that do not produce petroleum.

According to the foreign minister, our country does not have a stand on this because our source of oil will probably be Argentina. An agreement has been signed for the sale of oil and oil by-products to our country from the Province of Formosa. "Anyway, there could be unsuspected consequences; it is a good thing to be prepared for any problem that could arise," the minister said. [passage omitted]

Peru

U.S. Embassy 'Machine-Gunned'; Airport Also Hit

Shining Path Claims Airport Attack

PY2501200891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1939 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 25 Jan (EFE)—An automobile filled with dynamite exploded today in the parking lot of Lima's airport, killing one person and injuring four others. Responsibility for the action has been claimed by an alleged spokesman for the Shining Path in support of the Arab people.

The attack coincided with the machine-gunning of the front of the main U.S. Embassy building in Lima, in the downtown area of the capital. This action was carried out from a pickup truck with tinted windows, according to eyewitnesses.

In a telephone call to the newspaper LA REPUBLICA, an alleged spokesman for the Maoist Shining Path group indicated that the group has claimed responsibility for the airport attack.

The spokesman stated that the attack was carried out "in support of the Arab people." He added: "Yankees get out of the Middle East."

Deaths Reported at Airport

PY2501182891 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The announced security measures enforced at Jorge Chavez Airport are completely useless. A few minutes ago we transmitted a last-minute report on a cowardly terrorist attack at the airport. So far, two people have been reported killed and 10 vehicles destroyed. The number of injured people remains unknown.

No Injuries Reported at Embassy

PY2501212091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2043 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 25 Jan (TELAM-ANSA)—A terrorist commando attacked the main building of the U.S. Embassy in Lima this afternoon with carbine fire and possibly a bazooka. There were no injuries.

Deputy Press Attache Philip Ives said a few minutes after the attack that embassy security officers were verifying the scope of the action.

Police have reported that a heavily armed group in a double-cabin pickup truck stopped approximately 100 meters from the embassy and fired at the building, presumably with a bazooka.

Since a car bomb attack at Lima's airport—for which the Maoist terrorist group has claimed responsibility—took place just before the attack on the embassy, it is doubtful that this attack was carried out by the same terrorist group. It is therefore doubtful that the attack had political connotations linked to the Persian Gulf conflict.

MRTA Claims Responsibility

PY2601015891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0125 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 25 Jan (AFP-NA)—The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) has claimed responsibility for the 25 January attack on the U.S. Embassy with a homemade mortar.

In pamphlets and telephone calls to the media, the MRTA condemned the United States for its military intervention in the Persian Gulf. In pamphlets thrown from an automobile in the neighborhood of the embassy, the MRTA expresses "its militant support for the Arab people that are being massacred by U.S. troops in Iraq."

The police report that four MRTA members in a moving car were surprised by police who were on duty at the embassy when the subversives tried to fire the homemade mortar.

Aborting their plan, the aggressors fired machine gun bursts to cover their escape, and the guards also fired their weapons. There was a brief firefight as members of a nearby police post also fired into the air, eyewitnesses have reported. As this attack was taking place, a car bomb exploded in the parking lot of Lima's international airport. The explosion killed one person and wounded 20 others, and 15 vehicles were destroyed.

The MRTA is a subversive movement that supports the ideals of Che Guevara. It has been carrying out terrorist actions since 1984, but without the scope and fanaticism of the Shining Path (Maoist) guerrilla group.

The MRTA has previously carried out terrorist actions using homemade mortars against U.S. organizations and Government House in Lima.

Shining Path Attack on Dircote Chief Foiled

PY2601011091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Two subversives were killed and a third was arrested in Trujillo after a foiled attack against the local Dircote [Counterterrorism Division] chief by a Shining

Path hit squad. The terrorist who was arrested was carrying a bag with explosives.

Foreign Minister Blames Iraq for Gulf Oil Spill

PY2701210091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1754 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 27 Jan (EFE)—Peruvian Foreign Minister Raul Sanchez today charged Iraq with having spilled oil in the Persian Gulf and pointed out that this action threatens the marine life in the region.

Sanchez made these remarks here shortly before leaving for Caracas, where he will attend a meeting of foreign ministers of the Group of Eight [Rio Group] to discuss the economic and energy problems the Persian Gulf war will cause for Latin America.

Sanchez said Peru deeply deplores the military actions and again calls upon Iraq to state its intention to withdraw from Kuwait and stop their armed actions.

The Group of Eight consists of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Sanchez To Outline Gulf War Policy to Congress

PY2501153891 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Deputy Horacio Canepa, member of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee, has reported that Foreign Minister Raul Sanchez Sotomayor will report on the Peruvian position concerning the Persian Gulf conflict next week.

[Begin Canepa recording] The Chamber of Deputies, through the Interparliamentary and Foreign Affairs Committees, will summon Foreign Minister Raul Sanchez Sotomayor to Congress to explain Peru's position on the Persian Gulf war. We understand that this position must be decided by the executive branch. So far we have learned through the press of isolated statements on the personal position of Raul Sanchez Sotomayor, who thinks the international community should be summoned to discuss the Palestinian problem. I personally think that before the Foreign Affairs Committee (?makes) a statement we should demand that the foreign minister once and for all express Peru's position on this subject because we understand that the Persian Gulf war will not only affect Asiatic and African countries and even the United States and [word indistinct], but it will also affect the Peruvian economy. [end recording]

Parties Call For Diplomatic Solution in Gulf

PY2701023491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0124 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 26 Jan (EFE)—Peruvian political parties and institutions today requested that diplomatic channels be reopened to bring about an immediate cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war.

In a brief communique, they noted that the use of diplomatic channels is based on respect for "the self-determination of peoples and human rights."

The communique is signed by representatives of the Popular Action Party, the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), the Christian Popular Party, the United Left, the Socialist Left, the Revolutionary Socialist Party, the Popular Democratic Unity, and the Mariateguist Unified Party.

Police Break Up Protests Against Planned Layoffs

PY2501134891 Madrid EFE in English 0532 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, Jan 24 (EFE)—Police on Thursday [24 January] broke up demonstrations in the Peruvian capital by state workers who held a 24-hour strike in protest at the government's plan to lay off thousands of public employees. Police fired tear gas and water cannons at workers who answered calls by union leaders for the stoppage to protest the government's voluntary redundancy scheme aimed at trimming the state payroll.

Union leaders claimed the stoppage was a success but the state news agency ANDINA reported that only a "limited" number of employees had taken part in the strike. The stoppage was called by the State Workers' Confederation, which represents more than 600,000 of Peru's one million public employees.

The government of President Alberto Fujimori is offering state workers two years salary in exchange for their agreeing to accept lay-offs.

Public school teachers, who are pressing for wage hikes, also joined in Thursday's stoppage.

Meanwhile some 5,000 workers at the state-owned Siderperu [Peruvian Iron and Steel Enterprise] steel company Thursday completed the third day of an indefinite strike to press demands for salary increases.

Fujimori Suspends Two Articles of Budget Bill

PY2601161491 Lima RPT Television Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori announced that he has suspended Articles 99 and 135 of the National Budget Law until Congress makes a decision on them. The president also announced a decree granting street vendors the status of independent workers. This decree will be published in the official bulletin tomorrow.

[Begin Fujimori recording] I patiently listened, with respect, to the debate during the special Congress session and, out of respect for Congress, I will not refer to the article on the exoneration of austerity norms. But, in defense of national interests, I am forced to adopt a measure on two articles that is very urgent and cannot be delayed: Articles 99 and 135 of the National Budget Law. The executive branch objected to these articles because if

they were approved they would cause very serious problems: first, for Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency], a company belonging to all Peruvians and which this government saved from bankruptcy, and second, for all state companies because they would not be allowed to hire expert professionals. Consequently, until Congress makes a definite decision supporting this measure in defense of national interests, Articles 99 and 135 of the National Budget Law are hereby suspended. [applause]

My government has already begun to build a different state that will reflect the real Peru. We will dismantle the oppressive state that ignores the people who began it, the state that is against the constitutional principle that states the supreme objective of society and state is the human being.

While we wait for some definite measures to be adopted, we will adopt some provisional ones. First, in a supreme decree that will be published on 26 January, street vendors will be given the legal status of independent workers. As long as the street vendors law establishing sanctions for noncompliance with the obligations of independent workers is not proclaimed, confiscation of street vendors' merchandise will be suspended. [end recording]

Bank Chairman Views Monetary, Debt Situation

PY2701202091 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p B 8

[Excerpt] Jorge Chavez Alvarez, BCR [Central Reserve Bank] chairman, confirmed yesterday that, in compliance with the strict monetary policy adopted by the government, there will be no printing of money and the purchase of dollars on the financial market will continue to be limited to $1 million per day.

Chavez said international net reserves now total $500 million.

He confirmed that discussions with the IMF are now over and that the economy minister—who is a cosigner to the economic policy—and the members of the BCR executive board will revise the agreed upon figures and objectives before signing an agreement with the institution.

A draft of the Basic Program has already been handed to IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and Economy and Finance Minister Hurtado Miller, who will meet in Washington today to analyze it. They will also discuss a quick method of summoning the so-called Support Group, which will supply funds for the successful implementation of the program and the payment of the $2.145 billion that has already come due to multilateral organizations. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Unidentified Individuals Shoot at U.S. Embassy

PY2501164691 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] According to a news agency report coming from Montevideo, several unidentified individuals shot at the U.S. Embassy in that capital today. The embassy is located a few minutes from downtown Montevideo. According to a report by the German press agency DPA, so far no organization has claimed responsibility for the attack, which could be connected to the Persian Gulf war. The attack was made by some individuals passing in a car; they are currently being intensely sought by the police.

Economic Plan Said Dependent on Gulf, Argentina

PY2501151891 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Enrique Braga has said that if the current situation in the Persian Gulf does not change and if Uruguay continues to depend on the Argentine economy, the executive branch will modify its economic program. Braga and Labor Minister Carlos Cat said this to the congressional standing committee, which had summoned them to explain the government's salary policy on the grounds that all political sectors—with the obvious exception of the Herreraist sector—have disagreed in one way or the other with the government's economic policy, especially in the public sector. [passage omitted]

Argentina's Menem Arrives in Punta del Este

PY2601005091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0021 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Punta del Este, Uruguay, 25 Jan (NA)—President Carlos Menem arrived at this city's Jaguel Airport at 2030. The president himself flew a twin-engine plane from Buenos Aires.

He was met by Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, Argentine Ambassador to Uruguay Benito Llambi, Adviser Miguel Angel Vico, and businessmen Mario Falak and Constancio Vigil, who had been waiting since 1800. [passage omitted]

Calls For GATT Flexibility

PY2601175491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1418 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Punta del Este, Uruguay, 26 Jan (NA)—President Carlos Menem urged the countries participating in the Uruguay round of GATT talks to adopt a more "flexible" (?position) because "we cannot afford a failure in light of the terrible situation in the Persian Gulf."

This morning the Argentine chief of state met for an hour with EEC representative Franz Andriessen with

whom he discussed the possibility of reaching an agreement within the Uruguay round of talks. "I think success is possible," Andriessen told him. Thus far, most of the countries participating in the talks have been very skeptical about their results.

The optimism shown by Andriessen, who is the number two EEC official, matches that of Menem, who said the Uruguay Round last year began meeting in an atmosphere of international detente. Within the current framework, Menem added, the participants sense a possible failure.

"This situation is no longer valid, and each country should adopt a more flexible position," the Argentine president said as he recalled that there are only five more weeks until the round of talks concludes.

"In light of the terrible situation in the Persian Gulf, we cannot afford a failure," Menem said during his meeting with Andriessen, who has participated in the GATT talks since the Brussels Round.

Before meeting with Andriessen, Menem held a working breakfast with Livestock and Agriculture Under Secretary Felipe Sola, presidential press secretary Fernando Niembro, SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] Secretary Hugo Anzorregui, and Presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo.

Menem arrived in Punta del Este last night and is staying at the apartment of Armando Gostanian, president of the National Mint and a member of President Menem's close circle of friends. Today at noon Menem will hold his first meeting with Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle. During lunch they will discuss bilateral issues.

Master Commerce, Investment Agreement Announced

PY2501171491 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The United States, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay will sign a master agreement on investment and commerce. The agreement, the first one reached under the Americas Initiative, will probably be signed on (?15 February in Washington). This announcement was made by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell during a press conference he and his Argentine counterpart Domingo Cavallo hosted after holding several working meetings. The two ministers both said the meetings were very positive. The Uruguayan minister added that the technical group of the common market being created by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay will meet in Buenos Aires between 4 and 6 February to put the final touches on the text of the treaty to be signed by the four countries. The date and place for the signing of the treaty may be reported after [words indistinct].

Venezuela

Perez Says 'Foreign Forces Must Leave' Gulf

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[Text] Caracas, 24 Jan (AFP)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has told a visiting Iranian delegation that the Latin American countries support the position that an international conference on the Middle East should be held as soon as possible.

"We understand that the problem of the Palestinian nation is at the bottom of this regional conflict," Perez said to the Iranian parliament's petroleum commission today.

The Venezuelan president called for an "immediate halt to the armed conflict" and supported the idea that "the foreign forces must leave the region. The UN forces should remain in the region if they are needed, and only as a last resort."

He noted that Iran and Venezuela both belong to OPEC and that the Persian Gulf conflict "has had a direct impact on us." In a reference to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the president reaffirmed his position—also Tehran's position—that borders must be respected.

He pointed out that "we have always resented the presence of big warmongering powers in our affairs," and now that hostilities have started, we must "continue to work for peace and for a political solution to the conflict that includes other problems in the Gulf."

He stressed to the Iranians: "Our position is definitely on the side of fraternal nations; it is a struggle for international justice."

Mohammed Faruz Pur, president of the Iranian parliament's petroleum commission and head of the delegation visiting Venezuela, said that the crisis in the gulf "will not have any repercussion on OPEC" and that the petroleum organization's reorganization should lead to its consolidation, which "is very important for all the member countries."

He emphasized that Tehran believes that the OPEC members should meet twice a year to discuss production levels and prices.

In regard to the war, he said "it must be resolved by the countries in the region," and for this reason "Iran advocates that Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait immediately and that the U.S. and allied forces withdraw from the region, too."

"Iraq and the United States know that the permanent presence of the North Americans in the Persian Gulf is not convenient for any of the two parties," he said.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is also in Caracas and met with President Perez on 23 January. Kissinger augured lasting peace in the Gulf once the conflict ends.

Caracas will also provide the setting for the meeting of the 10 foreign ministers of the Group of Rio (formerly eight), called to study the supply of petroleum in Latin America and the impact of prices and financial conditions during the current war situation in the Persian Gulf.

Defense Ministry May Send Observers to Gulf

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[Text] The Defense Ministry is currently planning projects for the social improvement of all members of the Armed Forces, including the construction of new quarters and their maintenance.

Defense Minister Vice Admiral Hector Jurado Toro has said during a news conference in (El Pavo), Cojedes State, following joint maneuvers with infantry, Air Force, and mechanized forces, that these projects will have priority over all others, and may even include the replacement of weapons that many of the soldiers are currently equipped with.

Defense Minister Jurado Toro did not dismiss the possibility of sending Venezuelan Armed Forces officers and noncommissioned officers to the Persian Gulf as observers, if the OAS were to make such a request.

[Begin Jurado recording] I believe that the Armed Forces are capable of fulfilling this duty. Venezuela is a member of the UN, its Armed Forces have already done this type of activity, and the forces have proven through the UN Observer Group in Central America that they are trained well enough, and have earned the recognition of foreign officers who have had the opportunity to command Venezuelan Army personnel sent to Central America to fulfill this type of mission. [end recording]

To conclude, Jurado Toro said that Venezuela's borders have the normal amount of protection, although three Bronco airplanes recently purchased for the Air Force have been sent to the western part of the country.

Following 15 days of continued exercises, the Army has proven that it is capable of defending the country with its new weapons, new techniques, and highly qualified personnel.

Oil Price Drop Reduces Nation's Daily Income

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[Text] Caracas, 24 Jan (DPA)—Oil market observers said today in Caracas that Venezuela expects to lose about $8 million a day after deciding to drop its oil prices by a little less than 25 percent. However, the cut will still not be enough to place its products on a competitive international level.

Only a week after the Persian Gulf war broke out and there was a sudden drop in oil prices, the state-owned Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. (PDVSA) informed its more than 100 clients of its decision to reduce the price for its light crude oil by between $6 and $6.50, down from $27 a barrel. Intermediate crude was reduced by about $5, down from $22; while heavy crude was reduced by about $4, down from between $16 and $18.

Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, Venezuela, in a decision coordinated with OPEC, increased its oil production of 1.9 million barrels to 2.2 million, the current production level.

This increase earned Venezuela approximately $14.5 billion in 1990, about $4.5 billion more than what had been calculated before the outbreak of the crisis. Observers pointed out that the drop in Venezuelan crude prices would have had to be at least $10 to be competitive on the international market.

After the outbreak of war on 16 January, the price for British Brent oil dropped about $10 and intermediate West Texas, together with other oils from Nigeria and Dubai, dropped about $8 a barrel.

In Venezuela, PDVSA reduced its Lagocinco-type light crude from $27.20 a barrel to $21.20, the Tia Juana from $22.90 to $17.90, and the Bachaquero from $21.60 to $16.70. The prices of some 20 types of crude and their derivatives were also reduced.

However, the drop in oil prices will not reflect an immediate drop in Venezuelan oil income because the average price for Venezuelan crude surpassed $22 in January.

For the 1991 budget, the government had made a conservative estimate of $19 a barrel, with a daily production of 1.94 million barrels. Income that surpasses these estimates is earmarked for a macroeconomic stabilization fund to support the government's adjustment plan.